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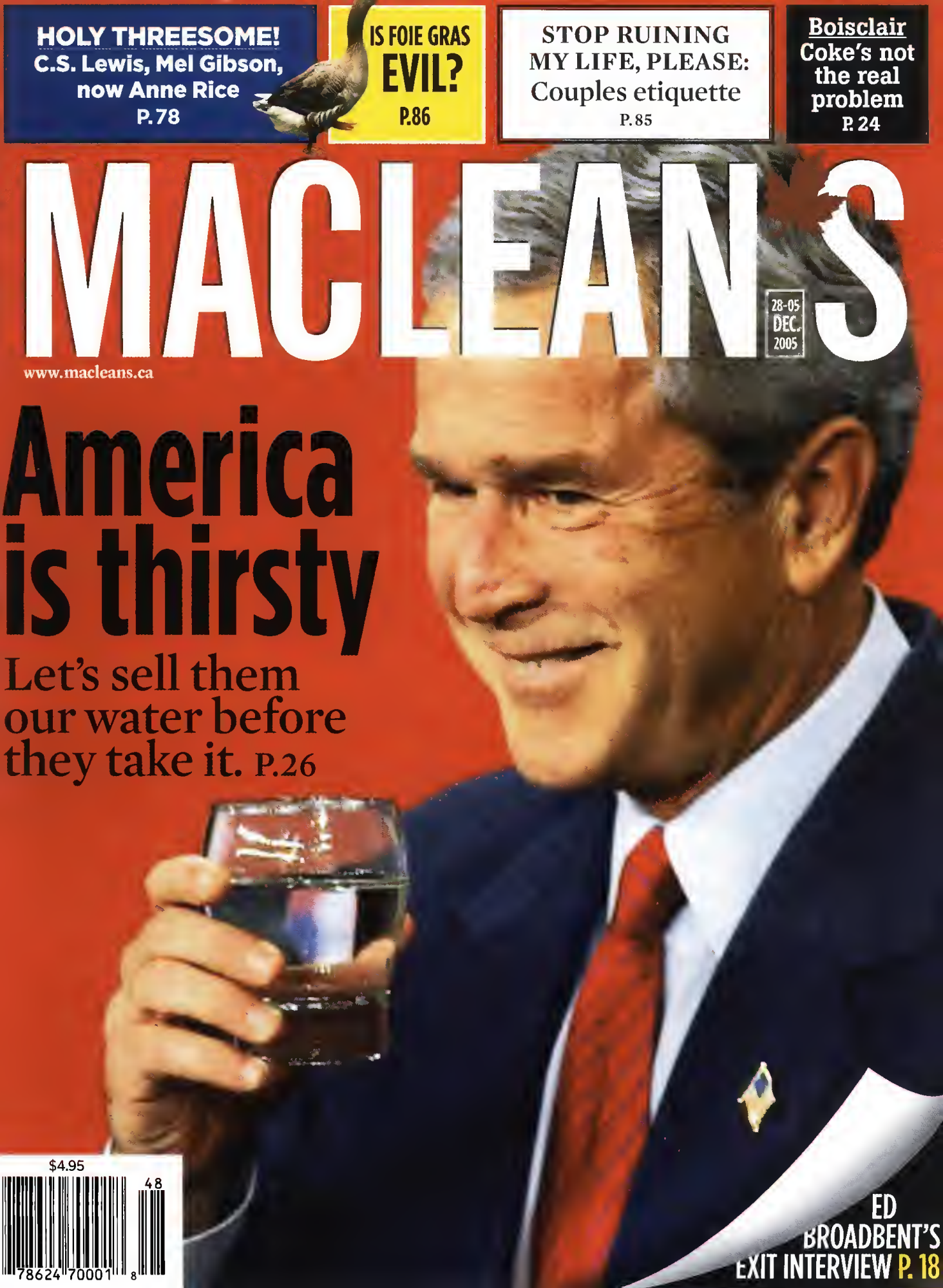
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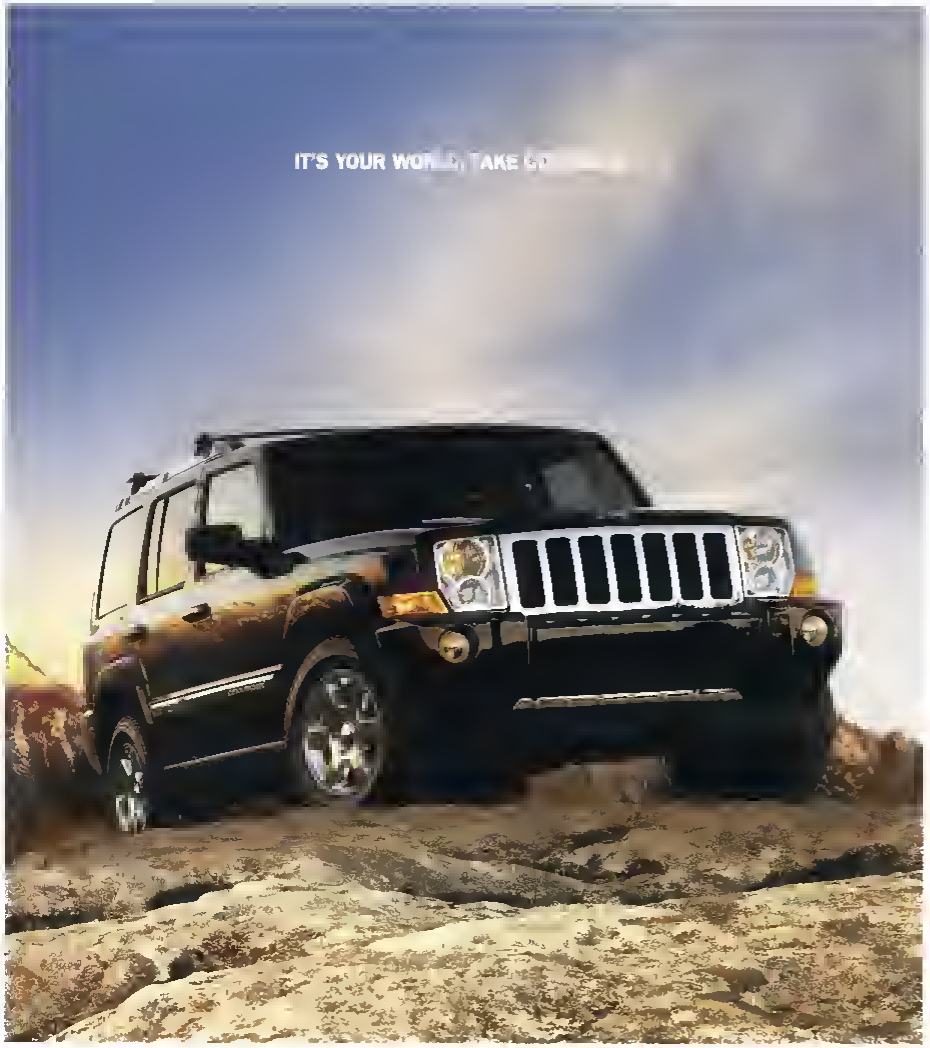


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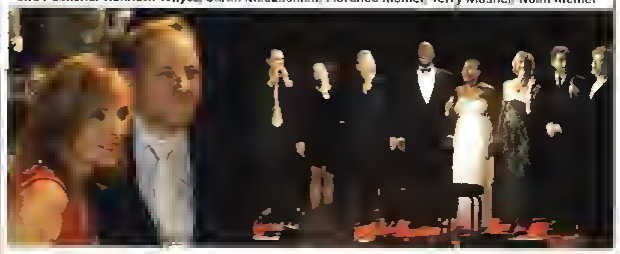
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DAZZLING Clockwise from top left: Rogers with Hilary and Galen Weston, Barbara Amiel and Black, Valerie Pringle and Newman, the finale, Cattrall with *Maclean's* Editor in Chief and Publisher Kenneth Whyte, Sarah MacLachlan, Florence Richler, Terry Mosher, Noah Richler



A spectacular Maclean's 100th

To celebrate its centennial, *Maclean's* hosted a black tie gala at the Toronto Centre for the Arts on Nov. 15, a day after the redesigned magazine hit newsstands. "I had very high expectations," said Seamus O'Regan from *Canada AM* about the revamped publication, "and I think they're off to a great start."

Under glittering chandeliers, 500 guests—among them many of Canada's most fascinating individuals, a number of whom have graced the pages of *Maclean's*—gathered for dinner and a show produced by impresario Garth Drabinsky. Amid the sea of linen swathed tables and red amaryllis bouquets were notables including Kim Cattrall, Gordon Lightfoot, Belinda Stronach, Dr. Henry Morgentaler, Marc Cardinal Ouellet, and author Margaret MacMillan. They took in performances by such Canadian stars as fiddler Natalie MacMaster and vocalists Brent Carver, Patricia O'Callaghan and Colm Wilkinson.

Introducing each act was emcee Arthur Kent, and guest speakers included Hilary Weston, David Frum and Joseph Boyden. They evoked the tragic and triumphant world events that shaped the decades since the publication was started in 1905. Said Ted Rogers, president and ceo of Rogers Communications Inc. (which owns the magazine): "We're all here to celebrate an incredible milestone. And we look forward to *Maclean's* exciting future."

The night had many memorable moments—including one that later made the front pages. Conrad Black had court papers served on Peter C. Newman (a former editor-in-chief of *Maclean's* and a current contributing editor), alleging defamation in the author's autobiography, published last year. It seemed fitting that news would emerge from a fete for a publication that has consistently made and broken news. "*Maclean's* has made a great contribution to this country," said Stronach, "and has brought forward important issues and helped shape the dialogue around those issues." Cheers to the century ahead.

To see our photo and video galleries from the Maclean's *100 gala, visit* www.macleans.ca/gala

MAIL BAG

'In your depression story, the following school hazing is described: "Guys punching you until your arms were black and blue." And this is to be tolerated?'

The early reviews

What a great read this week! I like the new format. This is my favourite magazine. I look forward to it every week. Today I was able to read it cover to cover because our power was off due to high winds. Great writers.
Mary O'Connor, Calabogie, Ont.

For many weeks I have watched *Maclean's* slide back and forth on the slippery slope that is sensationalism on one side and journalism on the other. Well, after receiving this week's clash of the *National Enquirer* and *Cosmopolitan*, I would have to say that Ken Whyte's execution of *Maclean's* is complete. Why on earth are you wasting precious resources on such drivel as "One long lap dance" or "Hairstylist needed" (7 Days, Nov. 21)? It is not in the interest of this reader that some American executive abused his expense account or that some Canadian has the longest nipple hair. I would like to see more emphasis on informative and educational journalism. I did find the cover story "You are exposed" to fit this criteria, but I really did not need to be assaulted by excessive stalkarazzi photography nor have my vision bludgeoned by an extravagant font size. I hope those at *Maclean's* who have a true vision and compassion for honest journalism will prevail and quickly resuscitate this wonderful magazine.
Melanie M. Ball, Cambridge, Ont.



First, my take on the good: kudos for an admirable objective to add 50 per cent more text. I often felt that the revamp last time around sometimes resulted in journalistic quantity that was just a bit too thin. Second, I really like the originality and zip of the new apostroleaf and look forward to its evolving incarnations. Now the bad: as someone with years of experience in the design industry, I experienced instant visual discomfort with the new general layout and composition. Something about the whole magazine is more evocative of the format found in a tabloid or a generic Wal-Mart flyer than what one might expect of a prestigious and classy publication entering its second century. Sorry, but to me it just doesn't seem to work or feel quite right, especially the headlines. Or maybe my 50-year-old eyes gauge visual panache in a fading light. I will, however, keep reading, though it will take some getting used to!
Graham Flagg, Port Moody, B.C.

I just wanted to drop you a line and let you know how disappointed I am in the new appearance of *Maclean's*. Your new typeface is very difficult for me to read, and I also find it hard to tell the editorial from the advertisements. In general, I find the new layout and colour scheme looks cheap, and I'm really finding it hard to understand what was wrong with the last redesign, which I thought was much more readable.
Andrew Kerr, Ottawa

This new look is a joke, right? You're not going to keep this look, right? *Maclean's* now looks like a supermarket tabloid or maybe the *Farmer's Almanac*. And the font is too small for those of us whose eyesight has deteriorated with age. Please let me wake up next week (or in two weeks, it looks like you gave yourselves an extra week) and see a magazine that does not look like the work of some new art director who suddenly discovered how many fonts she had.
Frank Meijer, Ottawa

Living in a rural area on Canada's West Coast, it is wonderful to see the new *Maclean's* and its great coverage of national and world events. Your redesign reminds me of the *Maclean's* I used to read years ago. Thanks!
Rik Diespecker, Halfmoon Bay, B.C.

I am thoroughly dismayed at your cheap new look. It's tawdry and affronting. I don't need to be shouted at in heavy black print. If I wanted to read a tabloid, I could go and buy one. But that is not why I've been subscribing to *Maclean's* for almost 15 years. The bad photographs of the columnists are an insult to their contributions. The coloured circles appearing on a few pages at the back really cheapen the look. And little bites of information stuck at the bottom of pages are intrusive to a good read. Perhaps your editorial team has forgotten why people like to get a newsmagazine: they like to read, not to be distracted. If this look stays, I won't.
Ileen Kohn, Toronto

A cure for depression

Upon reading Ann Dowsett Johnston's article about the tragic suicides of Gavin Craig and Kelty Dennehy ("Stalking a silent killer," December, 14), I noticed the emphasis on

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'The Hudson's Bay Co. and the Canadian Olympic Committee have simply decided that our athletes cannot wear fur. Both the Bay and Canada were built on a tradition of trapping and hunting.'

depression as the disease and no mention of its external and social causes. You do mention that "many campus counsellors across North America are witnessing an increase in the number of students seeking help with mental health issues," but do not ask why. At one of the schools (Athol Murray College of Notre Dame), the following hazing is described in your article. "Guys punching you until your arms were black and blue," and the victims, Kelty and his friend Noah, "learned to suck it up." And this is to be tolerated? Along with trying to find the "perfect pill," the environmental and social causes of depression and suicide in Canada should be seriously acknowledged and addressed.
Marina Gavanski-Zissis, Town of Mount Royal, Que.

Over 20 years in the full-time practice of psychiatry and psychotherapy have taught me one thing about depression—there is always a story and the story always serves very well to explain the meaning of the depression. If there is a genetic vulnerability factor at work, I believe that it is neither necessary nor sufficient to account for the emergence of depression in anyone. Depression, in my opinion, is caused by the mind in the brain as, for example, the vast majority of headaches are caused by the mind in perfectly normal brains. The brain doctors formulate depression and suicide as a simple organic illness, paying lip service at most to environmental influences. This is enormously appealing to people because, with its medical-technological authority, it grants us instant relief from guilt, accountability and the unknown. We are only the helpless victims of a sick brain. What the depression itself desperately strives to communicate is treated as a meaningless symptom of a dumb illness, to be silenced with medicine. The medical-illness model deprives sufferers and survivors of the chance to understand what actually happened to them, to take responsibility for it and through that to find hope, meaning, forgiveness and healing. Perhaps the chair in psychotherapy at the new University of British Columbia Institute of Mental Health will be more than token.
Dr. Howard Tayuen, Burlington, Ont.

Congratulations to Ann Dowsett Johnston for having the courage, stamina, sensitivity and ability to write such an insightful article. Congratulations also to *Maclean's* for having the understanding and foresight to print it.
Doris Sommer Rotenberg, Toronto

The fur is flying

I was under the illusion that Canadian athletes were capable of making decisions for themselves, but I see from your story on the Hudson's Bay Co.'s designs for our 2006 Olympians that this is not so ("Trapper chic," Olympics, Nov. 7). HBC and the Canadian Olympic Committee have simply decided that our athletes cannot wear fur. Perhaps the irony of substituting tanned sheepskin for beaver pelts on the hats escapes them: the sheep are just as dead. HBC and Canada were built on a tradition of trapping and hunting. The coc is supposed to represent all Canadians. Yet from its actions it has decided to repudiate our history and some of our people. Animal rights is not conservation. It is cultural imperialism. HBC and COC ask for our support while showing no respect for our work or traditions.
Jim Winter, St. John's, Nfld.

The designers quite rightly decided that the athletes would not want to wear fur, so why did they think they would want to wear the skin of another animal in the sheepskin cap and boots? A synthetic product would have been far more practical and ethical.
Vicki Fecteau, Toronto



School spirit, let's hear it!

So my alma mater, Nipissing University in North Bay, Ont., has finished last in the primarily undergraduate category ("University Rankings '05," Cover, Nov. 14) again. As a graduate, I feel I must come to the defence of Nipissing and say that I could not have asked for anything more from a university. Studying geography and economics, I had the opportunity to take a physical geography class where we could actually go out into the forest and see physical geography, I had a cartography professor who was tough and dedicated enough to read and correct every one of his students' misworded sentences, and I had a professor teaching me the economics of lesser developed countries who was from such a country and was consulting to the UN. I know these kinds of experiences are not captured in quantitative ranking systems, and prospective students and parents should not in the least bit judge a university by such a ranking system.
Dylan Houlihan, Kamloops, B.C.

I want to applaud your university rankings issue. You present, I believe for the first time, a report about schools that have publicly available teaching evaluations. Raising this issue is a very useful addition and a real improvement to your report. All universities should have this process, if not by professor, then at least by course number and year. Having public teaching evaluations is likely as important as class sizes and the percentage of classes taught by tenured faculty. Why? A public evaluation means the questionnaire is fully public. A university is much less likely to use a poor evaluation instrument if the evaluation is public.
David Johnson, Waterloo, Ont.

As parents of a student and athlete at St. Francis Xavier in Antigonish, N.S., I was not surprised to see that once again the school is No. 1 in your rankings. Our daughter was so taken with her first recruiting visit to St. FX that we dismissed other possibilities in Ontario. She is now in her third year at St. FX getting our money's worth; she has found her wings, some fabulous friends, and her purpose, academically, at St. FX.
Karen and Tony Holland, Windsor, Ont.

The mess in Kashechewan

John Geddes writes in the story about the mess in Kashechewan that the Cree didn't need to evacuate ("They didn't have to go," Kashechewan, Nov. 14). Oh yes, they did. Your pictures say it all. A few hundred people living on the edge of an immense swamp, subsisting on airlifts and expected to enjoy it and thrive. Any wildlife that existed originally would have been eaten long ago, and the rest killed by kids with slingshots and .22s. I know—I've worked in similar terrain most of my professional life, prospecting for mines in Ontario and Quebec. You can't have smart energetic kids raised in a place like that. Deputy Grand Chief Jonathon Solomon said it all—offer them the proximity of a thriving north country town so they can have access to job opportunities and a chance for good education.
Michael Ogden, Cavan, Ont.

I applaud *Maclean's* for printing a frank story about the debatable reasons for the evacuation. Paul Martin said prior to the last election that he realized the answer was in better funding a First Nations rejoining of society, not in continuing to encourage isolation on reserves. I always look forward to articles that are not reproductions of the soap opera theme currently popular in the media.
Grant Murphy, Dryden, Ont.







CL. FFORD SKARSTEDT/PETER BROUGH EXAM MER/CP

The only party in town



PAUL WELLS

Why do so many people seem to believe that government under anyone but the Liberals is unthinkable?

The highlight of the social calendar this autumn in the nation's capital has been the majestic Running of the Terrified Liberal Client Groups.

Teams of hardy journalists pen themselves up in cramped Parliament Hill press theatres with herds of federal grant recipients—Aboriginal groups, environmentalists, starving artists—who have been pushed to the brink of panic by rumours of a coming election. The thought that the Liberal era might be ending causes a stampede. The risk of being trampled in the rush to the scrum microphone is real.

"We can't be treated as secondary. We can't be an afterthought," said Phil Fontaine, national chief of the Assembly of First Nations. He was worried that the big first ministers' meeting on Aboriginal affairs might be scotched by an election call. "This is an incredible opportunity for us, and we can't let it slip by."

Elizabeth May at the Sierra Club was just as worried that the same thing might happen to the December global summit on climate change in Montreal. Do not bring down the government until after the summit ends, she said. "It is hard to have respect for any of the parties when they play political games with our children's future," she added.

Sometimes the panic spreads to the scribes. "No, but seriously, is it up to the opposition to set the electoral calendar?" Lysiane Gagnon sputtered in *La Presse*. (Reality check: sure it is, if the opposition outnumbers the government.) "And what is this absurd idea of announcing an election three months in advance?" She was referring to the NDP's offer to forestall a confidence vote if Paul Martin would agree to drop the election writ in January. Never mind that Martin himself announced an election 10 months in advance, when he said he'd drop the writ after Justice John Gomery's second and final Adscam report in February.

But here's my favourite part of Gagnon's column. "If the government is overturned, it's [the opposition] that will carry the blame for the manoeuvre—especially because it will put at risk the avalanche of gifts announced in the Goodale mini-budget."

Wow. There's something going on here. Not just a systemic addiction to Liberal handouts funded with your own tax dollars, but a widespread conviction that government under anyone but the Liberals is unthinkable.

In particular, I'm not arguing that the AFN and the Sierra Club are just cynically waiting for the money to fall. They genuinely believe their respective summits are crucial to the advancement of their issues. But it's not entirely clear why, after all, the federal Liberals had 12 years to get their act together on Aboriginal files and climate change, with exceedingly modest results.



And both summits could happen anyway, even during a campaign, just as Martin was able to take a break from the 2004 campaign to attend the G8 summit in Georgia. But of course last week's complaints weren't really about summits, but about an unspoken subtext: that the orderly alternation of power must not be allowed to happen.

The only reason Ralph Goodale's mini-budget contained "an avalanche of gifts" was so the Liberals could bid up the cost of any election held before Gomery's second report. It's grotesque of the Liberals to announce budget measures outside a formal budget, which in this country comes in February or March. My authority on this point is the same Ralph Goodale. Only 10 days before he announced almost $40 billion in tax cuts and new spending, Goodale told reporters not to expect tax cuts. "The time for significant measures is the time of the budget." Or, on the other hand, not.

So it's a bit rich to look at the current Parliament and only complain about the opposition's political games. It's like watching a baseball pitcher throw the ball and wondering why the batter insists on swinging his bat. This, incidentally, answers Martin's question about why the other parties are fussing over eight weeks' difference between his preferred timetable and theirs. For most of the extra time, Parliament wouldn't sit. Only one party would be using government jets to fly to government announcements and spend government dollars. Martin is asking for eight weeks to throw his pitches over an open plate.

Yet the Tories and NDP get the criticism. Here is the big obstacle they face: an apparently bottomless well of Liberal legitimacy. "If we have a one party state," one frustrated opposition adviser told me, "it's because Canadians want it that way."

The opposition parties are hardly blameless here. The Conservatives have stubbornly refused to tell us how they would govern. It's fair to wonder whether they even know. But I think this has more to do with the near-complete absence of opposition MPs who've ever sat in government. Before the Tory meltdown of 1993, there were always at least a few MPs facing the government who had sat where ministers sit and could do so again. Now there aren't.

But is that a reason to ensure that the opposition never gets to govern? Or an argument in favour of restoring the democratic alternation of power between parties, before this country simply forgets how to do it? M

Read Paul Wells's weblog "Inkless Wells," at www.macleans.ca/paulwells

There's something going on here, and it's not just a systemic addiction to handouts funded with your tax dollars

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A blast from the past



PETER MANSBRIDGE

You knew when the Liberals went for tax cuts, and big ones to boot, that this was going to be a campaign where anything was possible. After all, when first the Reform party, then the Canadian Alliance, and most recently the new Conservative party promised tax cuts, the Liberals had always dished ridicule. Out would pop Jean Chrétien or his finance minister, Paul Martin, to trash the idea as one the people didn't want—and one the economy couldn't afford. But now with surpluses embarrassingly large, and Conservative tax cut pledges attracting flattering reviews, the Liberals drop $30 billion worth on the table. Talk about an "all in" bet in what's proving to be the political high stakes version of Texas Hold 'em.

But will it work? Will Canadians who'd been leaning away from the Liberals swing back into the fold because of that tantalizing tease of cash? Is it a trap for the Conservatives, one that first makes them fret about whether to support the Liberal plan (they eventually did), and then run the risk of positioning themselves as dangerous big spenders if they try to out-promise the Liberals with their own proposal? Perhaps, but both parties should keep in mind that big cash giveaways don't always work as smart political strategy. Think 1979, a campaign which also had a tax component—the Joe Clark promise of mortgage interest deductibility, at the time one of the biggest cashback promises ever.

It was to be an almost direct copy of the U.S. plan that has been so popular over the decades (the simple rumour this summer of its potential demise south of the border was enough to send rumbles through the U.S. housing market). Clark's strategists were openly salivating at the possibility that the promise could make the difference in a campaign, but it wasn't a vote magnet for his party—not in the 1979 election when it was first unveiled, as the Tories won mainly on the strength of voter unhappiness with Pierre Trudeau, and not in 1980, when Clark's proposed 18-cents-a-gallon gas tax made voters forget about any possible mortgage gift and swing back to Trudeau. Mortgage interest deductibility has never since been on any federal party's campaign platform.

A lot of observers have been comparing the current political manoeuvrings to those of 1980, but the comparison is lame. Sure, we're in the current situation as a result of a minority government losing the confidence of the House of Commons, but in 1980 the defeat was a stunning surprise, while this year it will come at the end of a drawn out collapse during which the wait has become a national bore. The 1980 campaign, in spite of the government falling in mid-December of 1979, didn't actually start until *after* Christmas, and then went for almost eight weeks, making the whole question of the holiday season a non-issue. If the current government falls in the next week or so, Christmas *will* be an issue, impacting on everything from the leaders' debate to campaign appearances and platform releases.

Speaking of debates, often the entry point for most voters in any campaign, 1980 had another disinction, which hopefully won't be repeated this time around. It marked the last time an election didn't have the traditional leaders' debate—the parties could never agree on a format, mainly because the Liberals had a comfortable lead and were hiding Trudeau by restricting him to one or two appearances a day. They didn't need a debate, didn't want one, and felt no serious pressure

Big cash giveaways don't always work as smart political strategy. Think 1979.

to have one. At the end of what was a plodding campaign—the media tagged Clark's travels as "The Who's Farewell Tour"—the Liberals cruised to victory, and for the most part people yawned at the spectacle, debate or no debate. Assuming there will be a debate this time around, most people agree the format has to be improved from last year's almost unwatchable scream fest.

It seems this campaign will start with the polls, for whatever they're worth these days, showing the Liberals holding a slight lead. The Conservatives like to point to 1984 as the comparison to keep in mind, saying Brian Mulroney trailed John Turner by five points at the starting gate, but turned it into a romp of historic proportions by voting day. True, but is it really an appropriate comparison? Mulroney and Turner had never campaigned as leaders before, and Mulroney had only been in Ottawa for a year, Turner barely a month. But Paul Martin, Stephen Harper and Jack Layton are all running their second campaigns, and like them or not, most Canadians are pretty familiar with them. As a result, their core votes seem entrenched, and the vote that can be swayed one way or the other is small, although enough to be the deciding factor in who wins and who loses.

Strap on the snowshoes and let's get at it—the history books are waiting. M



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7 DAYS
A LOOK AT THE WEEK OF 11/14



NO RELIGION for Kim Jong Il

CANADA SIDES WITH THE U.S. IN AN INTERNATIONAL DISPUTE—AND WAITS FOR SOFTWOOD LUMBER DUTIES TO BE CUT

GOOD NEWS

Watch that car!

France's gift to extreme sports, parkour, is growing into a worldwide phenomenon. A bastardization of the French phrase "*parcours du combattant*"—meaning (more or less) a military steeplechase—parkour involves running, vaulting and climbing in a quick and fluid manner through obstacle-filled streetscapes. Parkour clubs are now popping up around the world, with several in Canada. But one expects France to continue as the mecca, as its streets fill with barricades, burning rubbish heaps and overturned cars.

André the giant

André Boisclair became leader of the Parti Québecois, and the future of the sovereignty movement is now in the hands of a haughty, untested 39-year-old known for his raucous social habits and use of cocaine while a cabinet member in 1997. His radical program for independence (see page 24) has never been to the taste of a provincial majority. There is solace for Canadian federalists in there somewhere.

You're getting sleepy

A NAFTA panel ordered the United States to drastically cut duties on Canadian softwood lumber imports. Meanwhile, France and Canada were poised to dispute rights to thousands of square kilometres of Atlantic seabed south of Saint-Pierre and Miquelon. These simultaneous appearances in headlines of the phrases "Law of the Sea" and "softwood lumber dispute" was good timing. Statistics Canada reports that rampant insomnia is costing the national economy 48 million hours a year in lost productivity.

We sided with the U.S.?

In a rare move, Canada broke ranks with the UN and sided with the United States in an international dispute. Our delegates to the World Summit on the Information Society helped broker a deal that left the U.S.-based Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers in full control of the Internet, and relegated the rival Internet Governance Forum to an advisory role. (It was also remarkable that a conference with 10,000 delegates reached any kind of a decision.)

BAD NEWS

The sky is falling

The World Health Organization announced that an outbreak of avian flu could assail societies with the impact of a global war, and further proclaimed that global warming is contributing to more than 150,000 deaths and five million illnesses each year. The scientists admit their conclusions are uncertain, in the first instance because avian flu is not yet transmissible human-to-human, and in the second due to a lack of reliable data. Still, the best-case scenario here is that the world's most authoritative health authority has gone panic happy.

Kim's inquisition

A U.S. commission reported that Kim Jong Il's regime in North Korea has been subjecting underground church leaders to snap trials, after which they are either shot or crushed under a steamroller. Meanwhile, the European Union brought a resolution to the United Nations criticizing North Korea's human rights record. Pyongyang has answered its critics by ordering European NGOs out of the country.

The waiting game

Jean Reynolds, 73, a Foam Lake, Sask., woman put on a waiting list for urgent hip replacement surgery on Sept. 19, is still waiting. Her doctor has told her it may be as long as six to eight months, even though the website for the Saskatchewan Surgical Care Network maintains the surgery should be available in three to six weeks. This reminds us that Ottawa has just over a month to deliver on Paul Martin's year-old promise to set firm guidelines for wait lists by Dec. 31, 2005. Word is we're going to be kept waiting.



LET'S PLAY PARKOUR. A new extreme sport from France may be just the thing for this streetscape.

The Kazemi file

An Iranian appeals court ordered a further investigation into the death of Montreal-based photojournalist Zahra Kazemi. She was arrested in 2003 for photographing a Tehran demonstration. Beaten in prison, she fell into a coma and died; an Iranian intelligence agent was charged, tried and acquitted in 2004. Ottawa has argued that his trial was flawed, and the court ruling appears to support that position. Kazemi's family believes she was targeted for arrest and beaten by a senior prison official.

Sky high

The operator of Toronto's Pearson International Airport, which already boasts some of the world's most expensive landing fees, says it may hike them again in 2006. The fees are charged to airlines and passed along to passengers. The increase is expected to be seven per cent.



A WEEK IN THE LIFE OF THE GOVERNOR GENERAL

During the finale of *Star Académie* (Quebec's version of *Canadian Idol*) there was a controversial skit involving a finalist dressed as Michaëlle Jean (in near-blackface); the GG spoke of continued inequality for women in Canada while handing out awards in commemoration of Persons Day; cited Shania Twain's rags-to-riches story when presenting the singer and 42 others with the Order of Canada; warned that Canadians must not let modesty overshadow recognition of good works.

DISCOVERY

No more hot rollers

Paris researchers last week announced they'd found the structural key to what makes curly and straight hair. In people with curly hair, a bulb in the root is hook shaped, and emerging hair retains the shape of the bulb. The discovery could lead to drugs that determine straight or curly hair.



Infecting skeeters

A malaria conference in Cameroon last week heard scientists describe how they're enlisting African fungi in the battle against the disease. The fungi attack malaria-bearing mosquitoes, shorten their lifespans, and even stop them from biting while they remain alive.

Super-thin conductor

Researchers reported last week that graphite (a carbon mineral) sheed one atom thick can continue to serve as an excellent conductor of electricity. The finding may point to new uses in microelectronics.

Land, lots of land

Analysis of the rare element hafnium, found in zircon crystals, led scientists at Australian National University last week to suggest that the early Earth had continents almost from the beginning of its existence, challenging the conventional wisdom that the young planet evolved continents over a long period of time.

Nine ways to die

Of seven million worldwide deaths from cancer in 2001, 2.43 million were caused by nine preventable risk factors, according to *The Lancet* last week. The causes are: smoking, low fruit-and-vegetable intake, obesity, inactivity, alcohol, unsafe sex, air pollution, indoor smoke from household use of coal, and contaminated injections.

WILD KINGDOM

The ducks are scared

Game park keepers in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, are trying to find a mate for Modesto, a lonely five-year old giraffe, after he repeatedly tried to mate with a tree, a fence and a garden shed. A virgin, Modesto's only other animal company is a flock of ducks. Said the park's director, Juan Aragones, "He's driving us crazy."

Cat-and-gecko game

Jody Howard's pet gecko was lazing beneath a heat lamp in the terrarium in Howard's Charlottetown flat last Wednesday when her cat ambushed it. The attack toppled the lamp onto a pile of laundry, creating a blaze that almost cost Howard her life. Awoken by the smoke detector, she evacuated the cat, leaving firefighters to douse the flames. She later found her gecko unsinged.

Approach carefully

A golden eagle belonging to renowned eagle expert Daniel Johnson of Carcross, Yukon, went missing last week. Although Johnson has appealed for leads on the young bird known as Smokey, he warned people not to grab her. Smokey has razor-sharp talons.

Exotic buffet

After Kenyan officials agreed to export 137 animals to a new zoo in Chiang Mai, Thailand, animal lovers in both countries were horrified last week to learn what's going to be served on a special buffet menu for humans at the zoo. Turns out the park's director, Plodprasop Suraswadi, is planning to serve imported giraffe, zebra and crocodiles.

MORTALITY

Granny's hangover

Sleeping pills may do more harm than good for the elderly, according to studies by Toronto's Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. It found that pills lengthened sleep by an average of 25 minutes and quality of sleep improved by 14 per cent. However, "adverse cognitive effects" such as dizziness or inattentiveness increased 4.78 times.

The key to avian flu?

Chinese researchers suggested last week that avian flu is so deadly in humans because it incites inordinately high production of cytokines in the lungs. Cytokines, part of the human body's immune system, cause inflammation, making it difficult to breathe.

Ketchup and cancer

There is slight evidence tomatoes reduce the risk of prostate cancer, says the U.S. Food and Drug administration. But that shred was enough for processed-tomato giant H.J. Heinz—it plans to trumpet tomato products such as its own pasta sauce as a cancer risk reducer. The FDA also determined that tomatoes have questionable value in reducing the risk of ovarian, pancreatic and other cancers.





MMMM Zebra on the menu

My burger's flashing

Reports of glow-in-the-dark meat have Australians scared, but authorities say the phosphorescence is actually a result of a harmless *Pseudomonas fluorescens* bacteria, always present in meat. But because they grow rapidly when meat is stored at a temperature outside normal refrigeration, it could be a coincidental indication that the meat is going off.

A quick thump

Findings presented last week at an American Heart Association meeting suggest that a 20-minute CPR course is just as effective as a full four-hour course.

MONEY

Don't be late

Cable, satellite and wireless companies may be charging illegal late fees. Companies may calculate a compounded late-fee rate of two per cent a month. However, because they charge even if a customer is late by one week, that can mean an effective annualized interest rate above the maximum allowed by the Criminal Code: 60 per cent.

Yield to temptation

Soaring commodity prices have led to a rash of highway sign thefts in Cape Breton. Police recently charged a man who stole 700 kg of signs, cut them into one foot-square pieces and sold them for $200. A single sign can fetch $4

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: CP PHOTOS/COM; KEITH SRAKOCIC/AP; EVERETT COLLECTION

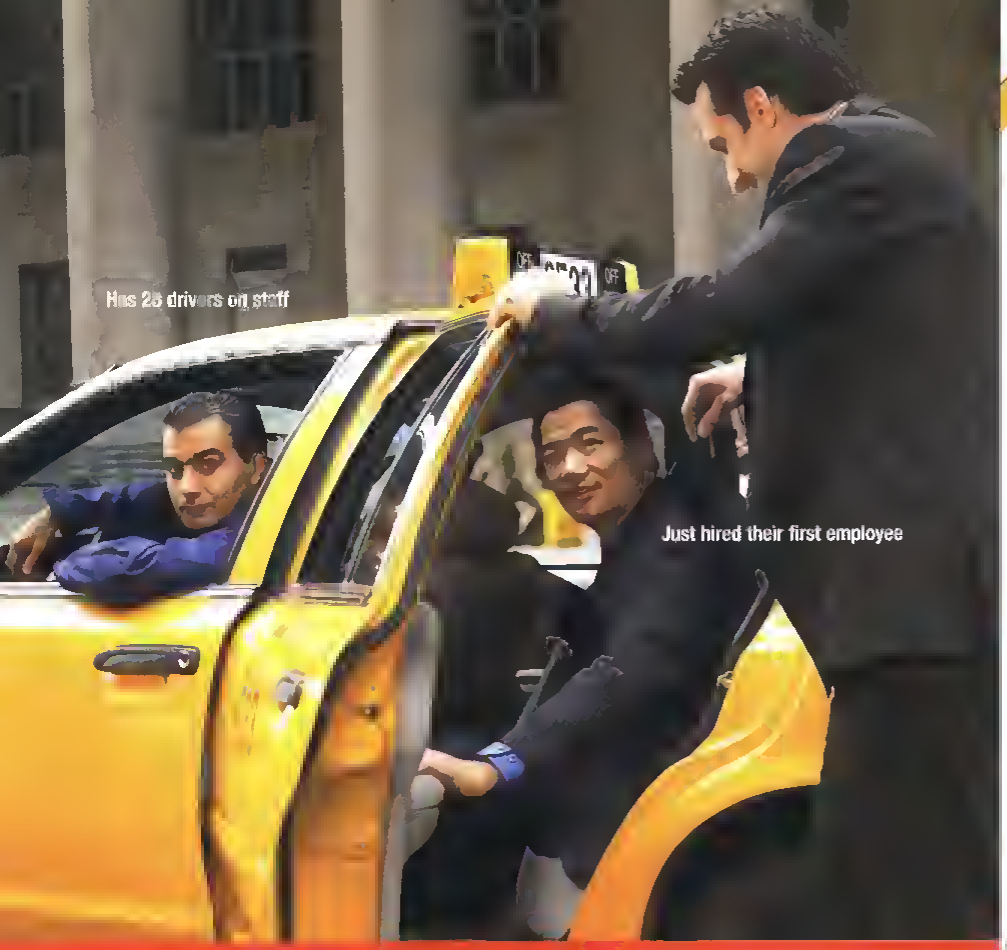


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7 DAYS

LOOKING AHEAD: PRE-CHRISTMAS SALES TARGETS

Microsoft will introduce the newest version of its Xbox gaming console this week, and expects to sell three million units within 90 days. China's State Reserve Bureau will sell 20,000 tonnes of copper to ease domestic shortages but may have to buy it back to cover a rogue short sale of 20,000 tonnes last week by a state employee betting on a price drop. Premier Ralph Klein will visit Ottawa, Quebec City and Halifax to explain how oil-rich Alberta is pulling its weight in Confederation.

The gift of plastic

To elbow in on Canada's $2.4-billion gift-card market, Visa has introduced prepaid Visa cards with available values from $25 to $500. The cards are tied to specific retailers, such as West Edmonton Mall, Michelin and others.

Roll out the barrel

Calgary liquor store operator Wayne Henuset has spent $100,000 to be the first North American to buy a rare personalized cask of 1974 Glenfiddich single malt whisky. The cask will yield 220 bottles, which Henuset will sell for $600 apiece. Forty-eight sold in the first week. A similar vintage was sold in 2001 on board British Airways Concordes.

POLL WATCH

Big? Bad? Let's eat.

Moviegoers are willing to eat 34 per cent more stale popcorn when it's served in a large bucket, compared with how much they'll down from a smaller one, leading researchers to posit that people will eat even unappealing food if it's available in a larger portion.

Not so smooth

The Velvet Revolution of 1989 has been rough on 40 per cent of Slovaks. They complained in a poll last week that the event, which saw the end of Communism and led to the breakup of Czechoslovakia in 1993, has resulted in a deterioration of their personal lives.

Probate heaven

Fewer than 45 per cent of Canadians have prepared the most fundamental element of estate planning: a legal will, according to a new poll by Ipsos Reid. Among adults 18 to 34 years old, only 18 per cent have wills.

IN PASSING

Peter Drucker, 96, management guru and author of 39 books, including *The Practice of Management*, who was skeptical of macroeconomics and opposed the prospect of senior management being compensated more than 20 times the rate of their lowest-paid workers.

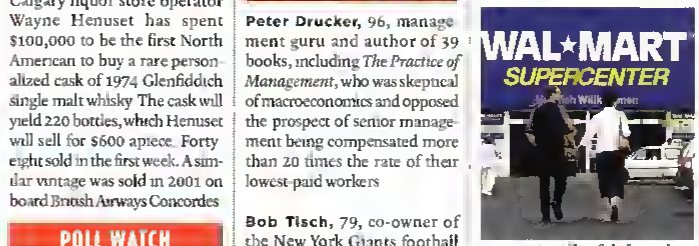
Bob Tisch, 79, co-owner of the New York Giants football team, who died within three weeks of his business partner, Wellington Mara. A former U.S. postmaster general, Tisch also raised millions of dollars for New York high school athletic facilities.

Dorothy McDonald-Hyde, 59, who became one of Canada's first female elected chiefs, as head of Alberta's Fort McKay First Nation in 1980.

IN OTHER NEWS

Rising from the dead

Two months after Hurricane Katrina, authorities in Plaquemines Parish, La., are still trying to sort out debris in 15 area cemeteries. Many graves were opened by water and winds, and headstones were strewn around. The disorder is so great that cemetery officials have found coffins in trees and even area living rooms. In one case, winds carried a 1,360-kg crypt from one side of the Mississippi River to the other.



Wal-Mart: no 'lustful glances'

Lust in Aisle 6

In a move to ban office romances, Wal-Mart in Germany introduced a 28-page code of ethics for its 10,500 employees, which explicitly barred, among other things, "lustful glances," as well as more loving exchanges. But last week a regional industrial tribunal in Dusseldorf ruled the ethics code in breach of German law.

Toying with trains

A giant penguin toy, lying on German railway tracks, brought service to a halt last week when a train engineer mistook the huge item for a man in a tuxedo. "We're at a loss to explain the presence of this large penguin," a police spokesman said. "You would think you would notice if you lost something like this."

Junk food and the law

Police in South Carolina were looking for Rodney Dane Higginbotham last week after he became upset that his wife hadn't cooked any food and allegedly squirted squeezable cheese into her hair. Meanwhile, in Louisiana, Shanta Williams became so upset that the onion rings she'd been served at the Malt-N-Burger were cold that she dialed 911. She was charged with wasting police time.

Angenrheidiaeth=164

The makers of the word game Scrabble published a version for Welsh speakers. The game includes special tiles for "LL" and "RH" letter combinations, but no K, Q or Z, which don't appear in Welsh. More than 100 million copies of Scrabble have been sold in 29 languages.

Musical reward

Japan's toilet maker Toto Corp. has created the Apricot N5A, which plays lullabies when sat on. Created from response to consumer surveys, the Apricot also interconnects with a home stereo system (mercifully only in one direction).

Black tie bout

Guests at a formal dinner in Derby, England, found the topic of the evening infectious boxing. Police were called after a brawl broke out at the Heritage Hotel. Four people suffered minor injuries; one man was taken to hospital after being hit on the head with a champagne bottle.

Half-baked plan

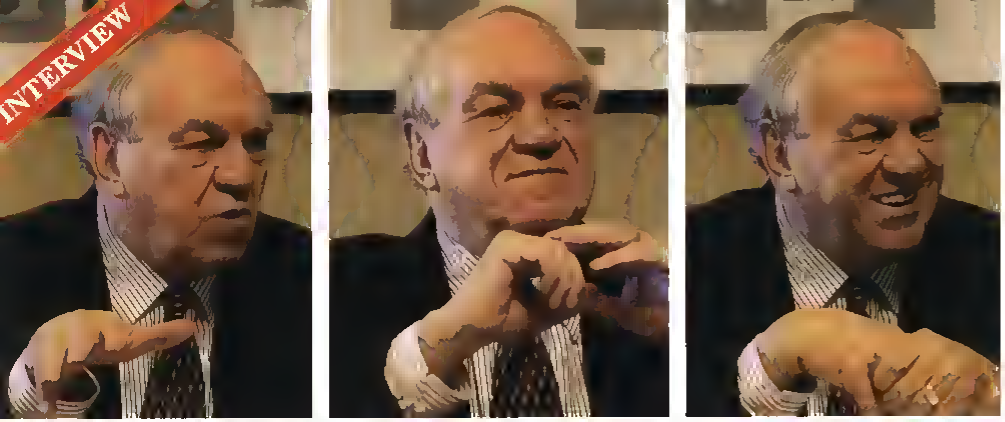
A former employee of the Speedway Restaurant in Fergus Falls, Minn., allegedly attempted to burgle the diner last week. But when he tripped an alarm he attempted to hide in the drop ceiling and fell out. Police found him hiding in the oven.

Too sick to get help

With two out of five adults unable to work because of illness, the Welsh village of Croeserw was found in a 2001 census to be Britain's sickest place. But last week the village's only medical clinic closed for underuse. M



DAVID BLOOM/EDMONTON SUN/CP (TOP); ADRIAN SCHMIDT/AP; ANN HEISENFELT/AP



Resign on principle? 'A Liberal cabinet minister would rather go to hell than give up his cabinet post.'

ED BROADBENT TALKS TO KENNETH WHYTE

With more than two decades of parliamentary experience—including 14 years as NDP leader—Ed Broadbent has seen his share of federal scandals. He recently released a seven-point ethics plan that includes tougher rules for lobbyists and patronage appointments as well as better access to information. Because of his wife's illness, Broadbent, 69, will not be running in the next election.

Q *Justice John Gomery has determined that the Liberals established the sponsorship program, ran it, and used it to funnel public money into their party. He found that the program involved illegal contributions and kickbacks ...*

Not to mention greed and venality.

Yet despite all this, the Liberals are still leading in the polls. Do Canadians have a high tolerance for this sort of thing, or is it just that they believe one party's not going to be any cleaner than the other?

Or they have other priorities. I think that's closer to the truth. Canadians, like democratic citizens anywhere, aren't lined up in one direction. Ethics are obviously very important to them, but at the same time other things, whether it's post-secondary education for their children or the health care system, these drive people, too. So while they may be really ticked off, voters may say, "Well, given the alternatives, I'll still come back to the Liberals." Having said that, I haven't the slightest doubt that in the forthcoming election, ethics and accountability will play a leading role in shaping people's decisions.

Is any government going to be sufficiently motivated to make real change on ethical issues without overwhelming public pressure?

I think ethics are as serious a problem as they've been in my political life—and it still will not determine final [electoral] outcomes. If we just look at the country south of the border, a different kind of scandal involving a former president, Clinton, was front and centre—in fact, he was impeached over it—and yet Americans, on balance, came to regard Mr. Clinton rather favourably. And I understand and respect that. It's part of the real hard-headed democratic citizen's range of options to say, "These guys don't behave ethically, but I like what they do."

But you mentioned in a recent speech that the government in the past year has done little beyond dealing with damage on ethical issues, so these things do interfere with good government.

Yes, they do. In the past 12 months, Question Period has been loaded with ethical questions. And I think the lingering concern that I have, speaking frankly as a guy who's spent most of his adult life as a member of Parliament, is what Mr. Gomery himself said: it's a culture of entitlement that characterized the Liberals. And it persists. You know, Martin called for change in his initial response to the Gomery scandal, but he then appointed a political staffer as an ambassador to Costa Rica. We've seen [former Liberal cabinet minister] David Dingwall's questionable lobbying techniques, and he was defended by two cabinet ministers the day the story broke, before any of the details were known.

My favourite is Art Eggleton having to resign over putting his girlfriend on the payroll, and then Martin appointing him to the Senate.

Exactly, right. So the cronyism is still there with Paul Martin.

But doesn't that confirm my point that we're not taking this seriously enough? The government doesn't expect to pay a penalty in the polls. Also, if these things are of real concern, couldn't the NDP have demanded ethical reform in return for supporting the Liberals' minority government last spring?

Well, not last spring. That was entirely a budgetary matter, but these issues were certainly key to the unravelling of our support for the government. In the fall, Jack Layton, as leader, and I raised a whole series of these ethical questions about lobbyists, about access to information legislation, and so on. All of these things led to our decision to publicly say the Liberals no longer have our confidence. About four weeks ago, on behalf of the party, I released a seven-point ethical accountability reform package, and if I may say so we did this some three weeks ahead of the Conservatives. The Conservative package, by the way, is very good. Our emphasis has been, "Well, look at what Paul Martin's done since [Gomery]." There hasn't been a cleaning up. The greed is still there, the culture of entitlement is certainly there. Tony Blair's had at least three or four ministers who have resigned from his government on principle, but that never happens here. I mean, a Liberal cabinet minister would rather go to hell than give up his cabinet position.

PHOTOS BY PETER BREGG/MACLEAN'S

Q *You mentioned your seven-point plan, which covers everything from access to information to lobbying restrictions. What single thing in that plan would go the furthest to improving ethics in government?*

We need much tougher laws that require disclosure of fees and expenditures of lobbyists, but we also need to make illegal the acceptance of lobbying fees based on outcomes. Then we need to reform the process by which appointments are made to the thousands of federal boards, agencies and commissions across the country. I've pushed for a total revamping of all the boards and commissions to make competence-related criteria the condition of appointment. You shouldn't get the job because you're a former chief of staff to the prime minister, or you're André Ouellet, Dingwall, you name them.

On the lobbying point, I think the Conservatives have proposed that cabinet ministers and senior officials should be made to wait five years after leaving office before they can lobby in Ottawa. Is that worthwhile?

Yes. I think that, right now, that's one thing that we're agreed on, the Conservatives and us. There's a big overlap on these issues.

I don't want to be cynical about this, but this is a real departure from how politics has traditionally worked in Canada. If we close off all partisan appointments and don't allow people to sit on some board or commission as political appointees, and if we don't allow senior officials to become lobbyists or to take appointments once out of office, are people still going to be willing to commit a lot of time and effort to the political process?

I think that you will derive activist support from a different category of people. Virtually all the proposals that I've made on behalf of my party have been put in place in western European governments. We're one of the few places that still have these political appointees. It goes hand in glove with this culture of entitlement that we think is normal. It wasn't that long ago, in a certain province, where a premier who shall go nameless would sit down in a church basement and put $10 bills in envelopes for people coming to see him. Well, we've progressed beyond that. Now, I think most people working for parties are not motivated by patronage jobs. A certain number wheel and deal, but if you look at the grass-roots support of the parties, they're in it because they believe in what they're doing. I deeply believe that by cleaning up the rules you won't affect the number of people who will work for political parties, but you will deter a number of the people who are in it for their own benefit.

So if there are only benefits to cleaning up government, and no penalty for a party in government to making these changes, why haven't they been made?

That's the $64,000 question. I don't have the answer.

I want to talk about another of your specific proposals—the Belinda Stronach rule. You are proposing that anyone who, as a matter of conscience or for whatever reason, decides to resign as a member of one party and cross the floor to join another party, he or she should be required to resign the seat and run in a by-election first.

Yeah, if they're crossing the floor. They should retain the right to resign from their party and to sit as an independent for the rest of the term.

And you would not allow them to be appointed, as independent MPs, to cabinet or any other office?

Not without going the by-election route. There was a big uproar here, not just amongst Tories, with Belinda Stronach. I'm singling her out simply because she was the most recent. People just don't like this sort of thing, and I'm sympathetic to the men and women who voted for her. Most politicians know that at least 80 per cent of the votes they get are for the party and not for them individually.

Is there any difference among the parties in terms of ethical behaviour? I remember that former NDP leader Tommy Douglas once said the Liberals will give you stable government, if you can stand the smell of the stable.

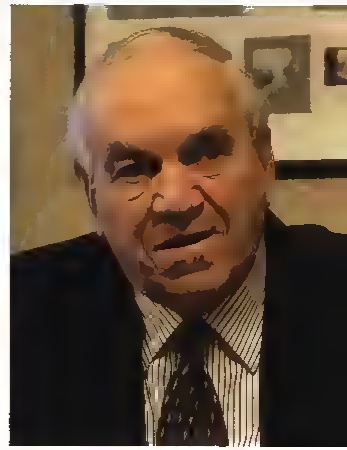
That sounds like Tommy! A good Saskatchewan metaphor.

Is the Liberal party involved in more of this stuff because it's in government more, or because they have more of a culture of expedience there, or are all politicians human and prone to error?

A I think a combination of all three. I don't think Liberals are genetically predisposed to evil, and I won't be facetious on that point. But all human beings are corruptible, potentially. That's why we need institutions that work against that culture of entitlement. It's the culture that builds up, I think, in a party like the Liberals in Canada, like some other parties in democratic western Europe that have been in power for a disproportionate amount of time. It becomes unconscious when you've had power for so long. And that's why it's so important to have rules.

A lot of the newspapers used the word "exonerated" with regard to the Prime Minister and the Gomery report, suggesting that Paul Martin really had nothing to do with it. A few other commentators have suggested that while Martin wasn't the brains behind the sponsorship program he was a leading figure in the government and the party, so it's inconceivable he couldn't have known about it. Where do you stand?

Well, I stand on the argument that he's accountable, for exactly the list of positions he had: vice-president of the Treasury Board, minister of finance—the second most powerful position in government—and an MP from the province of Quebec. It's the cabinet positions especially that make him accountable. When Mike Harcourt was premier, there was a scandal in one riding in British Columbia—a former cabinet minister in the NDP was involved in fundraising for a charitable organization, and he was funnelling off some [of the money] to his local riding association. Mike Harcourt didn't even know about this, but he resigned. And that really struck me at the time. I said to myself, in my years in federal politics I couldn't imagine some federal cabinet minister doing this.



'I haven't the slightest doubt that ethics will play a leading role in shaping decisions in the coming election'

We should have Justice Gomery's final report in February. What do you expect, and do you think his recommendations will be implemented?

I imagine there will be serious recommendations aimed at avoiding these kinds of problems in the future. But, you know, even if it all gets implemented, there will still be problems. These things sometimes happened because good rules were simply bypassed. So you come back to a pretty banal political point that those of us who regard ourselves as reformers should keep in mind: the best institutions can fail if you don't have good people. M

DON'T ASK ME THAT

The polls say we're headed for another minority government—and that raises issues neither Martin nor Harper wants to address

BY JOHN GEDDES Nobody expects politicians heading out on the campaign trail to talk about what will happen if they lose. That would make them sound like, well, losers. But with the fall of Paul Martin's government expected as early as this week, many federal Liberals and Conservatives are just as reluctant to discuss the most likely scenarios in which they win the coming election. They're more than happy to describe the great things they would do with a majority. The problem is that opinion polls suggest another minority, either Liberal or Tory, is what's really in the cards—and that leads to unwelcome questions. For Conservatives, it opens the taboo issue of whether Stephen Harper would try to govern with the support of the separatist Bloc Québécois. For Liberals, the prospect of Paul Martin needing to count on the NDP again to control the House raises the awkward matter of how soon Liberals, accustomed as they are to ruling outright, might begin conspiring to oust him.



Asked about these unpleasant possibilities before the campaign has even started, supporters of both Martin and Harper cry foul. Don't they get a chance to at least head out on the trail and make their case for a decisive democratic victory? Normally, sure, because majorities have usually been a strong possibility in federal elections. But these aren't normal times in Canadian politics. The sustained surge of the Bloc in the wake of the sponsorship scandal has put about 50 of Quebec's 75 seats, according to many observers, all but out of reach of the parties that would actually like to govern Canada, rather than tear it apart. And taking Quebec largely out of the equation makes it harder than ever for either of the big national parties to score more than half of the 308 seats in the House. "A majority is essentially impossible," says University of British Columbia political science professor Richard Johnston, a veteran analyst of federal voting patterns.

Past surveys have found the Liberal-NDP governing combination is the most favoured potential election outcome with voters

Unwelcome questions about the implications of a minority are bound to plague Harper most during the campaign. After all, the Liberals have experience in undermining him by raising the spectre of a Conservative-Bloc coalition. Last year, when he was still running for the Tory leadership, he tried firing back by drawing an analogy between a Conservative government propped up by the Bloc and a Liberal minority that relied on NDP support. "I do not see us making a deal with the separatists," Harper said at the time, "and I think Mr. Martin should rule out making a deal with the socialists." But equating the two situations is, to say the least, not quite how most Canadians see it. In fact, Darrell Bricker, president of the Ipsos-Reid polling firm, says past opinion surveys have found that the Liberal-NDP governing combination is the most favoured potential election outcome with voters, while the Conservative-Bloc combo is the least preferred result.

Still, Bricker sees potential for Harper to turn the prospect of a minority win to his advantage. Many voters who might consider turning to the Tories in order to punish the Liberals over the sponsorship scandal are worried about how far Harper might push a right-of-centre agenda. The likelihood that he would have to rely on backing from other parties in the House, suggesting a check on the Conservatives, tends to ease those concerns. "A minority works for him a bit if the proposition is he could come in and clean things up, like with his ethics law, but not, say, change the law on abortion," Bricker said. "Even if it is with the Bloc backing him up, there's some sort of control over what he could do." But UBC's Johnston predicts the Liberals will stoke voter uneasiness over a Tory-Bloc link, especially if efforts to demonize Harper personally don't show signs of working. "They are going to focus on the consequences of indulging yourself, so to speak, by voting Conservative," he said.

There's a certain logic to the notion that Harper's sympathy with provincial politicians who yearn for more money from Ottawa, and more autonomy when it comes to spending it, might dovetail with Bloc demands for more power and cash for Quebec. But it is far from clear exactly what policies he might put forward as prime minister that would have much hope of winning Bloc votes to pass in the House. After all, beyond wanting to take Quebec out of Canada, the Bloc generally sits somewhere to the left of the NDP on policy. That sets up an obvious ideological clash with the Tories, to go with the huge political danger Harper would face if he offered the slightest hint of making common cause with the sovereignists. Those pitfalls leave Conservative strategists musing about other ways a Tory minority might survive—even including a period of Liberal co-operation. "I think the reality is that if Stephen Harper forms a minority government, his biggest support for the next two years will come from the Liberal party, because they'll be in a leadership fight," says B.C. MP John Reynolds, co-chair of the Conservative campaign. "They won't want an election."



The notion of Liberal backing for a Harper minority is a novel hypothesis (although politics can produce strange bedfellows, as the recent coalition in Germany between the conservative Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats shows). Not buying it? Reynolds has others. He reads subtle signals of willingness to play ball coming from the New Democrat dugout. "Even Jack Layton has said he could work with Harper," he said. And what about this risky business of turning to separatist MPs for the votes needed to pass Tory legislation? Reynolds doesn't rule it out, and even hints that Harper might be willing to make minor concessions to secure the necessary support. "The Bloc is not going to want another election before the provincial election in Quebec, which is in about two years' time," he said. "So you're not going to have to give up a lot [to the Bloc] in order to stay alive."

While Harper must brace himself to face lots of campaign-trail questioning about how closely he might work with the Bloc, the implications for Liberals if Martin wins a second minority are more cause for whispering inside the party. If that's the outcome, Martin, now 67, would have to be prepared to go into another election within a couple of years—still seeking his elusive majority as he nears 70. Would the knives be out before he got his third shot at the big prize? Opinion among Liberals and outside observers is split. Just about everyone agrees, though, that he would not exit willingly. "This has nothing to do with logic," Bricker says. "It has to do with legacies and lifelong ambitions."

Assuming Martin wanted to stay on to fight another day, no potential successor at this point appears to have anything near the organizational clout to put serious pressure on him to go. Martin's takeover of virtually every important component of the Liberal Party of Canada apparatus during his long struggle against Jean Chrétien puts him in an extraordinarily dominant position. Arguably the top contender to be the next Liberal leader, Canada's ambassador to the U.S., Frank McKenna, isn't even in Canada to cultivate a leadership machine. And other possible candidates for Martin's job are glum about their chances of stirring up Liberals for a leadership war. "We can't afford to go through another two or three years of what we went through between Chrétien and Martin," said one Liberal who is widely viewed as aspiring for the party's top job. "And if we're in a minority, an election could occur at any moment. We've got to be ready."

A Tory minority would raise a taboo question: would Harper try to govern with the support of the separatist Bloc Québécois?

The chances of a movement to depose Martin would be much greater if Harper won with a minority. But some Liberals predict that even then, Martin would hang on in opposition, for a chance to try to return to 24 Sussex Drive whenever the Tory regime would be defeated. His close-knit team, who know every trick in the book after their years of feuding with Chrétien, would be tenacious about fending off any rival Liberal faction that arose. "That's what the Martin guys specialize in," said one insider.



Despite the lack of aggressive internal rivals, some Liberal MPs do expect Martin to face pressure to bow out if his showing in the coming election is weak. "I've always been a supporter of Paul's," said Thunder Bay, Ont., MP Joe Comuzzi, who gained a certain elder statesman stature when he resigned from cabinet on principle last June to free himself to vote against the government's same-sex marriage law. "But I think you've got to produce successes. I hate to say it, but this is a blood sport." He said Martin needs to deliver a majority, or at least a more stable minority with more Liberal seats. "I think if we lost seats, there would be real difficulty," said Comuzzi, 72, who had not yet decided last week if he would stand for

re-election. "I suspect that people would start looking around for someone else."

If Martin sensed that the craving for a new leader was growing, he might try to put his minority on a more secure footing by negotiating a formal coalition agreement with the NDP. University of Waterloo history professor John English, who is himself a former Liberal MP and is currently working on a major biography of Pierre Trudeau, predicts a working arrangement like the 1985 accord struck between Ontario's Liberal Premier David Peterson and Bob Rae, then the provincial NDP leader. "If the Liberals can form a majority with the NDP, there'll be a deal along those lines," English said. "Then we'll see a Liberal minority that will last a long time." Given the chance, Layton would have to make a strategic judgment: would forging such an alliance strengthen him, or Martin? The lesson from the Ontario experience is mixed. Peterson was rewarded with a majority in the 1987 election after a two-year partnership with the NDP, but Rae bounced back to win the 1990 vote.

'The chances of a movement to depose Martin would be much greater if Harper won with a minority'

Of course, there's always the chance that a superb campaign might lift Martin or Harper into majority territory. The Liberals would need to add 22 seats to the 133 they now hold. The Conservatives would have to return 67 more MPs than the 98 who now sit in their caucus. Recent polls make either outcome look unlikely, though the Liberals are far closer. An Ipsos-Reid poll last week put their support at 36 per cent of decided voters, well above the Tories at 27 per cent and the NDP at 16 per cent. Typically, about 40 per cent is needed to win a majority in the House. While Liberals don't look so far from that threshold, Bricker said voter resentment over the sponsorship scandal will make it hard for them to build support. The Tories, meanwhile, aren't even close. Which makes the coming campaign look like a contest over who forms the next minority, a race in which defeat, as always, looks awful, but with a twist—victory for Martin or Harper might turn out to be not much fun either. M



BEDFELLOWS: the 1985 agreement struck by Rae and Peterson worked for two years. Martin and Layton might try for a similar accord



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MY WHAT BIG TEETH YOU HAVE

Never mind the coke jokes—André Boisclair really wants to tear the country apart

BY PAUL WELLS "There is no reason to fear me," Andre Boisclair told a *National Post* reporter and, by extension, the rest of Canada a few days before he won the Parti Québécois leadership on Nov 15. And indeed, despite his convincing victory—53 per cent on the first ballot against more than a half dozen opponents—Boisclair's triumph seemed to inspire more giggling than trembling among federal politicians.

Pierre Pettigrew, Paul Martin's foot-in-mouth foreign minister, sparked outrage in some quarters by calling Boisclair the "next loser" in a party of losers. Federal Transport Minister Jean Lapierre added that "it was the easiest adversary for Jean Charest, who's just won." And Liza Frulla, the heritage minister, wished the young newcomer luck because "his party throws its leaders out like old Kleenex."

Much of the snickering, of course, was occasioned by Boisclair's colourful past. The dashing 39-year-old is the first openly gay leader of a major provincial political party. But the novelty of that feat was handily outweighed by the revelation that he is also the first leader to admit he used cocaine while serving as a cabinet minister in Lucien Bouchard's government. That shocking news marred Boisclair's otherwise well-orchestrated comeback. He had left politics last year to study at Harvard University, and had already accepted a Toronto consulting job with McKinsey & Co. before Bernard Landry's resignation launched the search for the PQ's sixth leader.

If he did win despite his slim CV and an avalanche of coke jokes, it's because Boisclair represented something so novel it was irresistible for Péquistes: the first leader in the party's history who doesn't belong to the same generation as its founders of the 1960s. The abiding fear for Péquistes has been that their movement was the product and prisoner of a single generation. Boisclair represents renewal. And not, on the face of it, much else. He offers the vigour and beauty of youth along with, by most accounts, no particular insight into history or the life of the mind.

So Boisclair would be easy to dismiss as a seasonal fad, the political equivalent of a mood ring or a pet rock, were it not for the polling trends and the program he defends. The polls suggest he would win a general election even more handily than he won the PQ leadership: 41 per cent to 21 per cent for the Charest Liberals, according to CROP.

If that trend held until an election that will probably be called in 2007, Boisclair would be in a position to implement the latest PQ program.

In a grassroots party like the PQ, disproportionately influenced by the hard core separatists known as "*caribous*," the program is hammered out paragraph by paragraph at policy conferences. The current program is the product of a party base that was badly upset by Bernard Landry's 2003 election rout. Boisclair, seen by some in the PQ as too business-friendly and Anglo friendly, has embraced the program wholeheartedly to prove his separatist bona fides. And it's this program that led federal Environment Minister Stéphane Dion to say that Boisclair's "moderate veneer won't hold up. He's a radical."

How so? Because the latest PQ program abandons two central tenets of Jacques Parizeau's 1995 sovereignty plan: a Quebec-Canada "partnership" and a year's worth of negotiations between a referendum and a secession. Instead, the PQ now calls for a unilateral "declaration of national sovereignty" immediately after a referendum, along with a law "declaring that only the government of Quebec may raise taxes among the Quebec population."

Could a Quebec government simply do that? Declare itself independent and order its citizens to ignore a federal government that contested the secession? "Of course not. It would be chaotic," says Robert Young, a professor of political science at the University of Western Ontario. Young was once considered such a congenial expert for Quebec sovereigntists that the PQ caucus invited him to brief them in 1995. But now he says a contested secession could result in a fundamental and prolonged clash of legitimacies.

Here's what that means on the ground. Are federal government benefits still worth anything in Quebec? Can Canada Post deliver them to your home? When it comes time to collect payroll taxes, to which government should a business pay them? What happens to decisions in Quebec courts under appeal at federal courts? Governments in Quebec and Ottawa would be giving contradictory instructions. "This would be particularly tricky problem for federally appointed judges serving in Quebec," says Sujit Choudhry, a University of Toronto law professor.

The relevant section in Young's 1999 book, *The Struggle for Quebec*, is called "Meltdown." A contested unilateral secession "involves a level of disorder and violence that contradicts the normal view of Canada and Quebec as stable, tolerant societies," he wrote. And this scenario begins, not with Ottawa doing anything dramatic like sending in troops, but simply with the federal government continuing to enforce laws and provide services while the Quebec government insists it stop.

These dilemmas would bring profound uncertainty directly into the lives of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of Quebecers. And perhaps the most interesting thing about the recent PQ race is that this warning—that the PQ platform is a recipe for chaos on a massive scale—is shared, not only by federalist academics in Ontario, but by the most experienced of the defeated PQ leadership candidates.

Louis Bernard was among the most trusted advisers to René Lèvesque in 1980 and to Jacques Parizeau in 1995. Nobody questions his desire for a sovereign Quebec. But his surprise candidacy turned into a lonely crusade against his own party's radically irresponsible program. "A declaration of sovereignty or independence is a solemn gesture from a country declaring that, henceforth, its government exercises complete and sovereign control over its territory, to the exclusion of all other authority," he wrote during the campaign.

Unfortunately, if the federal government won't pack up and leave—and the Clarity Act forbids it from doing so if Parliament finds either the referendum question or majority unclear—then the secession "will inevitably be chaos," Bernard wrote. "It will be impossible for Quebec to take over and ensure the continuity of federal programs and services, because it will have neither the information, the civil servants, nor the money to do so." And finally, because "foreign countries, even the friendliest, won't want to alienate Canada by immediately recognizing a sovereign Quebec."

So this is the analysis of the PQ's finest mind (and of serious observers outside Quebec) that the route to sovereignty Boisclair endorses is a straight path to chaos. Which may be all the reason anyone needs to fear the PQ's callow and popular new sorcerer's apprentice. M



AT THE LEADERSHIP RALLY: polls suggest he'd trounce Charest's Liberals in an election

WOLF IN SHEEP'S CLOTHING: the popular Boisclair might seem a moderate, but in fact he is a radical who wholeheartedly supports the PQ's hard-core separatist agenda

AMERICA IS THIRSTY



They're already looking for ways to take our water. We should tone down the emotion and figure out how to sell it to them. STEVE MAICH on a controversial issue.

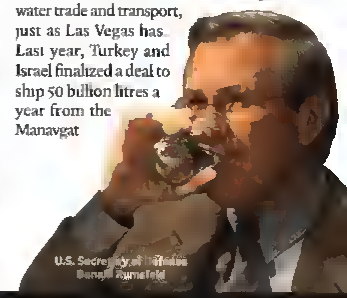
On the border between Nevada and Arizona sits Lake Mead, the biggest man-made reservoir in the United States, created when the Hoover Dam was built in the 1930s. It is the shimmering oasis that makes urban life possible in the middle of the bleached desert landscape of the Mojave. It's also the epicentre of North America's burgeoning water crisis.

All around the 880 km of Mead's rocky shoreline, a bright white calcium deposit, known to locals as the bathtub ring, marks a high water level that is a quickly fading memory. Drought has dropped the surface of the lake 20 m below the bathtub ring over the past five years. Boulder Beach, once a popular day trip destination for nearby residents, is now about 300 m from the water's edge. The boat launch and fuel pumps of what used to be a marina are abandoned in the middle of what now looks like a parking lot. The marina and its luxury yachts chased the water to a new location a couple of miles down the road more than a year ago.

It would all seem funny if it weren't so scary. Lake Mead is the principal source of drinking water for the Las Vegas valley—the fastest growing urban area in the United States. In all, more than three trillion gallons of water have disappeared due to drought, evaporation and overuse in five years, raising profound questions about the sustainability of growth in the U.S. southwest. The Colorado River, which not only feeds Lake Mead but also drives the turbines of the Hoover Dam, is a critical source of drinking water and power for much of southern California and Arizona. And between 2000 and early 2005, its flow dropped by almost half.

Las Vegas has responded with some of the most aggressive water conservation measures on the continent. Every drop of indoor water is treated and either reused for irrigation or returned to the Colorado. Strict limits are placed on all outdoor spraying, and the water authority pays homeowners us$1 per square foot to pull up lawn grass and replace it with less thirsty desert vegetation. All this helps, but it doesn't fix a thing. "This drought has been a huge wake-up call," says Patricia Mulroy, head of the Southern Nevada Water Authority. "But conservation alone cannot solve the problem. If we continue to grow as we have, at some point we simply need more water in the system." That's why Las Vegas is steaming ahead with a highly controversial plan to build a us$2-billion, 400-km pipeline to transport groundwater from the northern part of the state to slake the thirst of a city whose population is expected to double over the next decade.

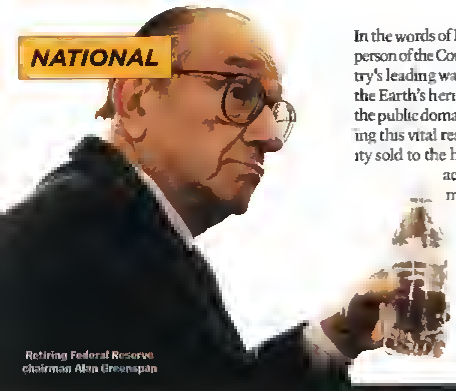
The problems facing Las Vegas are part of a developing crisis slowly tightening its grip on much of the world. As the global population grows and developing economies expand, the demand for safe, secure water will accelerate just as it has in the fastest-growing pockets of the U.S. In response, much of the world is embracing the need for large-scale water trade and transport, just as Las Vegas has. Last year, Turkey and Israel finalized a deal to ship 50 billion litres a year from the Manavgat River to help supply Israel's growing population and agricultural needs. Several countries, including Greece and Cyprus, already import water and more are making plans and striking deals to ensure their farms and cities continue to thrive. North America is no exception. Engineers agree that, if Nevada can pipe water 400 km south, eventually it could



U.S. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld

'It seems likely that the U.S. will act aggressively to ensure its water security'

RICK BOWMER/AP (LEFT). ROBER L. WOLLENBERG/UPI



Retiring Federal Reserve chairman Alan Greenspan

The Southwest's water crisis? 'Tell them to move.'

In the words of Maude Barlow, national chairperson of the Council of Canadians and the country's leading water crusader, "Water is part of the Earth's heritage and must be preserved in the public domain for all time. Instead of allowing this vital resource to become a commodity sold to the highest bidder, we believe that access to clean water is a fundamental human right."

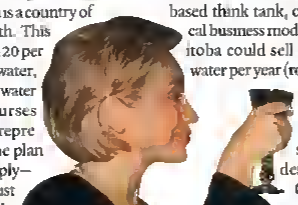
But even if that's true, and water is not a commodity like any other, then it's a right being denied to much of the world's population, even in rich countries. All across the U.S., communities are drying out. Drought has cut the flow of the Missouri River by a third, and intensive farming in the Midwest has substantially drained the enormous Ogallala aquifer that stretches from South Dakota to Texas. Even in northern climates like Wisconsin and Illinois, residents are dealing with dry wells that have failed to keep pace with soaring demand. When the U.S. government surveyed the 50 states in 2003, more than two-thirds said they expect to face some sort of water shortage within the next 10 years. The situation is even worse in the developing world. The United Nations estimates that by 2025, two-thirds of the world population, or almost 5.5 billion people, will face chronic water shortages, and scientists expect global warming will only make things worse.

In this context, Canada is a country of unbelievable water wealth. This country boasts more than 20 per cent of the world's fresh water, and the flow of rain, spring water and snowmelt that courses through our waterways represents seven per cent of the planet's renewable water supply—all to satisfy the needs of just 0.5 per cent of the world's population. This fundamental gap between global demand and Canada's ready supply has already attracted several business consortiums over the past two decades with plans to skim lake water for export. A couple even managed to garner the support of provincial governments in Newfoundland and Ontario in the 1990s, but those plans were quickly scuttled by public outcry and federal intervention.

But as the global water crisis deepens over the next two decades, this country's intransigence will prove increasingly difficult to maintain. Canada is offside even the UN's position on the matter. In 1997, the UN said that international water markets and trade are likely the only way to alleviate chronic shortages worldwide, while discouraging water waste in areas where it's plentiful. But it's not just a humanitarian issue: there is an enormous commercial opportunity and economic imperative at stake. If Canada insists on opting out of international water trade, that decision will almost surely do severe damage to the country's economy and standard of living.

Water is "liquid fuel for growth," says Robert Glennon, a professor of law at the University of Arizona, and one of the world's leading authorities on water policy. Just as human beings can't survive without moisture, economies can die of thirst. And if the U.S. economy continues to be plagued with shortages, the implications for Canada's No. 1 export market will be devastating. "Water is no longer perceived as a gift from God, but a commodity for which one has to pay," says Dr. Isabel Al Assar, an international trade expert based at the University of Dundee, Scotland. "Water will become like oil one day, I have no doubt about it."

If Al Assar is right, then Canada, through a miraculous stroke of lucky geography, is sitting on a liquid gold mine. Pinpointing exactly how much Canada could reap by selling fresh water depends heavily on a long list of questions: what price would buyers be willing to pay? How would it be transported? How much could be safely withdrawn without damaging sensitive ecosystems? But in 2001, the Frontier Centre for Public Policy, a Winnipeg-based think tank, constructed a theoretical business model showing that if Manitoba could sell 1.3 trillion gallons of water per year (roughly the amount that drains from provincial rivers into Hudson Bay in only 17 hours) at the same price charged for desalinated sea water in California, the province could reap annual profits of close to $4 billion. In 1992, the World Bank estimated that worldwide trade in water could be worth US$1 trillion within the next generation. Even the opponents of water trade acknowledge that much of that market could belong to Canada.



Hillary Rodham Clinton

It's not just a humanitarian issue. It's a huge commercial opportunity.

The alternative is not pretty. As water shortages worsen around the world, increasing attention is sure to focus on Canada's water usage, and this country has a woeful story to tell. Canada has already been singled out by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development as one of the world's most profligate wasters of water. On a per capita basis, Canadians consume 1.6 million litres of water a year—twice as much as people in France and four times as much as the average Swede. The vast majority of that is lost through primitive irrigation techniques in the agriculture industry, but personal waste is also a major culprit. And we're getting worse, while most of the world is learning to be more responsible. Between 1980 and 1999, Canada's total water use rose by 25.7 per cent, while water consumption in the U.S. declined over the same period. Several experts have suggested that the abundance of water in Canada and the fact that Canadians pay little for access to it has contributed to a culture of waste. And if the country refuses to share its water wealth in the decades ahead, it's not hard to anticipate the reaction around the world. Canada will look like the neighbour who leaves his sprinkler on all night while the rest of the street dies of thirst.



Condoleezza Rice | Tom Ridge | Colin Powell

Canada has been singled out by the OECD as one of the world's most profligate wasters of water. And we're getting worse.

A tarnished reputation, however, is the least of Canada's concerns. Already, pressure is building in the U.S. to tap new sources of water, and replace supplies depleted through years of intensive farming, population sprawl and explosive economic growth. And as George W. Bush hinted four years ago, Canada is seen as the logical solution to the looming crisis. "I predict that the United States will be coming after our fresh water aggressively within three to five years," former Alberta premier Peter Lougheed wrote in a recent article for the *Globe and Mail*. "I hope that when the day comes, Canada will be ready."

If water is indeed to become a flashpoint in Canada-U.S. relations, the Great Lakes are almost sure to provide the spark. The importance of the lakes to both countries is obvious. They collectively supply drinking water to more than 45 million people and irrigation for a quarter of Canada's agriculture, and they provide the lifeblood of the industrial economies in Ontario, Quebec, New York, Michigan and Illinois. But vast as they are, the lakes are fragile. They were created by receding glaciers, and only about one per cent of their volume is replenished by rainfall each year, which means substantial withdrawals from the system have far-reaching impacts.

Already, the city of Chicago pulls more than two billion gallons of water a day from Lake Michigan and flushes it into a sanitary and shipping channel that drains into the Mississippi River. Although the U.S. Supreme Court has capped the amount of water the city can withdraw, most experts agree little can be done if Chicago decides to increase its take to satisfy a population expected to grow by 30 per cent in the next 20 years. And Chicago isn't the only community clamouring to tap the enormous bounty of the Great Lakes. Several counties that currently straddle the watershed in Wisconsin and Illinois have petitioned to get access to lake water to shore up dwindling groundwater supplies, and environmentalists worry that if they get access, it could open the door to a never-ending escalation of demands from further and further afield.

Provincial and state governments are currently negotiating a deal that would place limits on transfers of water out of the watershed. But even if it is approved, the agreement would be non-binding, and the International Joint Commission that administers border waters has already received a legal opinion saying that the states and provinces do not have the authority to prohibit transfers of water to other parts of the country. Similar demands have recently bubbled up in the West, with U.S. communities demanding greater access to cross-border water supplies, including the Souris, Milk and St. Mary's rivers.

The vulnerability of Canada's southern watersheds was highlighted by the recent Devil's Lake controversy, in which North Dakota diverted potentially dangerous lake water into the Red River system that drains into Manitoba. Canadian officials complained but were ultimately powerless to stop the diversion, which many fear will have serious consequences for the health of Lake Winnipeg. The lesson was that Canada's water systems can only really be protected through co-operation, not litigation. If Canada chooses to fight rather than share, legal experts agree there is little to stop the U.S. from abandoning the border waters treaty. As Adele Hurley, director of the program on water issues at the Munk Centre for International Studies, has said, "It seems likely that the U.S. will act aggressively to ensure its water security." And if that determination were to result in large scale diversions from the Great Lakes, or intensive mining of underground



Dick Cheney | George W. Bush

'Wait 10 or 20 years. It's going to get nasty.'

OPPOSITE PAGE: UPPER SUMMIT: PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; MATT CAMPBELL/EPA; LOWER SUMMIT: JIM YALEMAN/KRT; CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: SHAUN HEASLEY/REUTERS; FARNACCI/EPA; STEPHEN CHERNIN/GETTY IMAGES; PAUL J. RICHARDS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; MATT CAMPBELL/EPA



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aquifers that straddle the border, the effect would be like dozens of giant straws draining the lifeblood of Canada's environment and economy.

Still, the vast majority of Canadians would prefer to keep fighting with tighter controls, and more ironclad assurances that Ottawa will never allow water to flow across the border, rather than facing up to the irresistible forces of supply and demand now shaping the world order in water. Even Lougheed, one of the staunchest proponents of the Canada-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, recently came out against water trade. "We Canadians should be prepared to respond firmly with a forceful 'No. We need it for ourselves,'" Lougheed wrote.

Many of the objections, however, are based on misinformation. Most Canadians, for example, believe Canada has no water to spare—despite the fact that, of the 18 principal watershed systems in Canada, 15 are currently providing less than 10 per cent of their annual renewable supplies to human uses, according to StatsCan. There is also a widespread belief, fostered by anti-trade activists, that if Canada were to agree to sell any portion of its water, the U.S. could demand unlimited access to the resource under NAFTA. But several legal opinions have debunked this notion. The University of Arizona's Glennon points out that NAFTA and the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) both include specific passages allowing countries to limit trade in any good to safeguard threatened ecosystems or to protect human health. Both treaties also state that countries can limit trade to conserve exhaustible natural resources.

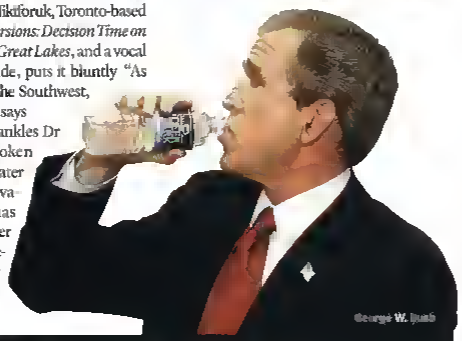
Nevertheless, ultra-nationalists like Barlow continue to play on Canadians' fears of losing control and ending up dry. To the critics of water trade, deficits in the rest of the world are simply not Canada's problem to solve. In this country, stories of U.S. water shortages conjure images of golf courses in the desert, and evoke little sympathy. Andrew Nikiforuk, Toronto-based author of *Political Diversions: Decision Time on Taking Water from the Great Lakes*, and a vocal opponent of water trade, puts it bluntly. "As for the water crisis in the Southwest, tell them to move," he says.

That kind of talk rankles Dr. Dale Devitt, a soft-spoken professor of soil and water at the University of Nevada Las Vegas, who has spent most of his career studying the science behind Nevada's water challenges. He advises the region on ways to conserve water, and is working with companies to find ways to reduce the amount needed to support plant life in the desert. "It's easy for people to criticize and say we don't use our water well," he says. "But people in the north rely on heating oil to survive winter. People in Florida and Louisiana get hit regularly by hurricanes, and in Oklahoma by tornados. Here we have problems with water—but every place has natural challenges to overcome."

As far as Devitt is concerned, water markets are the only way that the profound gaps in water supply will be solved. New technologies in water filtration and desalinization will help, he says, but only by allowing water to flow freely will the world ensure that all those who need water get it, and all those who have it, use it responsibly. "I hope that marketing of water will happen at some point," he says. "Because it's only going to get tougher. If we think things are tight right now, wait 10 or 20 years. It's going to get downright nasty."

To proponents like Devitt, Glennon and Al-Assar, the status quo is as hypocritical as it is unsustainable. If it's okay to use water to irrigate crops that are then shipped across national borders, if it's okay to bottle millions of litres a year for sale in corner stores around the world, if it's okay to divert water to make steel or refine oil that is then shipped across national borders, then why not the water itself?

Pat Mulroy agrees, but she isn't holding her breath waiting for Canadian exports to quench her region's considerable thirst. "People are irrational when it comes to water. They get very emotional about it, and that's not going to change." For now, she and scientists like Devitt keep working to stretch what they have and delay that day of reckoning, when there simply isn't enough water to go around. And while they look to the skies and hope for a little relief, Canada's treasure of Blue Gold stays safely locked away from those who might sell it, and those who might drink it. M
With Barbara Righton


GREG BAKER/AP

George W. Bush

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INVESTIGATIONS

A LITTLE PRIVACY PLEASE

In the wake of the *Maclean's* report, there's a scramble to plug the breaches



WHO S SHE BEEN CALLING? Stoddart is investigating how data brokers got her records

PHOTO BY PETER BREGG/MACLEAN S

BY JONATHON GATEROUSE The Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission is calling the country's phone companies onto the carpet over revelations in *Maclean's* that U.S. databrokers are selling the home and cellphone call records of Canadian consumers. In a terse letter dated Nov 18, the telecommunications regulator demands that Bell Canada, Telus Mobility and Rogers Wireless immediately launch internal investigations into how the magazine was able to obtain the phone records of Jennifer Stoddart, Canada's privacy commissioner, and another customer, via a Tennessee-based online service. "The article raises concerns with respect to the protection of confidential customer information," writes the CRTC, calling the *Maclean's* findings, which included details of incoming and outgoing calls on Stoddart's government issued BlackBerry phone, "a very serious matter." The companies have been given a strict 10 day deadline to report back to the commission with a host of information. Among the specifics requested: descriptions of the safeguards that were in place when the privacy breaches occurred, explanations of how the companies verify customers' identity, and a list of the new measures being taken to improve security.

The tough talk comes on the heels of amendments to the Telecommunications Act, introduced in Parliament last week, that will give the CRTC the power to impose huge fines—a maximum of $10 million for a first offence, $15 million for a second—on communications companies that fail to play by government rules.

In Ottawa, the opposition is also calling for closer examination of the threat U.S. data brokers pose to the privacy of Canadians and the security of government communications. "I find it all absolutely shocking," says Peter MacKay, the Conservative's deputy leader and public safety critic. "This wide open, almost Wild West ability to access other people's information is very unsettling." With the government currently seeking parliamentary approval for even greater access to phone records as part of its new anti-terrorism legislation, MacKay argues that now is the time to take action against those who are already abusing the system. "It has to be possible to clamp down, but I don't think it's a priority for this government," he says. "These are basic, fundamental rights, and people have to know their government is striving to protect their privacy."

It now appears that both the telecom industry and government regulators have known about U.S. companies inappropriately accessing Canadian phone records for more than seven years

Stoddart's office has already launched its own investigation of how the data brokers accessed her Telus Mobility and Bell Canada records, a clear violation of Canada's Personal Information Protection and Electronic Documents Act (PIPEDA). Although the phone carriers are co-operating with the privacy commissioner's probe, they have had little to say publicly about what steps are being taken to tighten internal security. But in response to the *Maclean's* cover story, Bell Canada did issue a press release labelling itself a "victim" of "fraudulent and unethical activity."

That shoot the messenger attitude typifies the industry response to security breaches, charges one of Canada's top privacy advocates. "Clearly the phone companies don't take this seriously," says Pippa Lawson, executive director of the Canadian Internet Policy and Public Interest Clinic at the University of Ottawa. "They seem eager to try and shift the blame. But the leak is from their ship and they're responsible for it." What's needed is better training for employees, stricter procedures for confirming customer identity, and more assertive government oversight. Lawson points to a complaint that she lodged with Stoddart's office in 2004 about another American data broker that still hasn't been resolved. "The problem is enforcement, not jurisdiction," she says.

In fact, it now appears that both the telecom industry and the government regulatory bodies have known about U.S. companies inappropriately accessing Canadian phone records for more than seven years, but have done little to combat the problem. The Ontario privacy commissioner warned the CRTC about the trade in confidential information in the spring of 1998. The CRTC in turn brought it to the attention of the telecom carriers, but no action was taken. (The Ontario privacy commissioner's office declined to provide copies of the 1998 complaint, citing Stoddart's ongoing investigation.) Peter Hope-Tindall, a former special adviser to the Ontario

FOR THE RECORD

SICK MAN OF OTTAWA SENDS ANOTHER PACKING

Upon his return to Ottawa, long-ailing cabinet minister John Efford complained about all the media attention. "I don't know why the press continually, day after day, wanted to talk about my health. I mean, I'm not the only person who has a sickness." That's for sure: an Efford special assistant, Rodney Mercer, has lodged a federal human rights complaint after losing his job, allegedly because he suffers from epilepsy.

commissioner who worked on the file, recalls being mystified by the phone companies' response. "They basically shrugged it off, saying that most of these companies were in the U.S.," he says. Hope-Tindall, who now runs a Toronto-based privacy and security consulting firm, says the ease with which *Maclean's* obtained the call records for Stoddart's government issued cellphone is even more troubling. "There are people in the government, police services and national security agencies who could be in great danger if this type of information is freely available," he says.

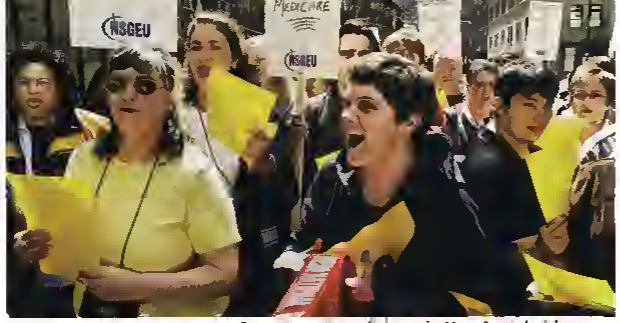
Plugging the holes in the system will not be easy. As fast as the telecom companies close one breach, the data brokers and snoops seem to open another. Marek Roy, an IT security consultant from Quebec City, says he recently brought two new problems to the attention of Canadian phone carriers. The first—a weakness in Rogers' automated customer service systems that made it possible to obtain a faxed copy of someone else's call records if you simply knew their postal code—has been corrected. "What we've done now, across the whole Rogers group of companies, is no more faxed phone records, period," says Ken Englehart, the company's chief privacy officer. "We'll

A shoot-the-messenger attitude typifies the industry's response to the problems

only mail them to your billing address." Rogers is also now demanding additional information to verify its customers' identity. Roy contends that he was also able to similarly obtain confidential customer information from Bell Canada with only a postal code, something the company flatly denies. "That was never possible," says spokesman Mohammed Nakhooda. "Our customer service centres don't even have fax capability." While not providing specifics, Nakhooda says Bell continues to upgrade its internal security to prevent unauthorized people from obtaining customer information. "Privacy is an absolute No. 1 priority for us," he says.

The second problem that Roy detailed—computer software that enables hackers to assume another person's identity by making their number appear on call displays, regardless of where the call is really coming from—cannot yet be stopped. "The phone companies really can't fix it," says Roy, who demonstrated the technology by calling a reporter from what appeared to be an internal *Maclean's* phone number. Given that many of the phone companies use call display to help confirm the identity of their customers, the potential for abuse is huge, Roy says. "It's all pretty alarming. I've called Bell and added all new passwords to my accounts." M

jonathon.gatehouse@macleans.rogers.com



CONCERNS ABOUT THE LONG TERM: Protesting private clinics at the Nova Scotia legislature

Sick and tired of waiting

According to a new survey, a majority of Canadians support private health insurance

BY COLIN CAMPBELL Like many Canadians these days, Robert Swanson has a health care horror story—about one friend who paid to get timely life saving surgery in the U.S., and another who waited for months for the same procedure in Canada. Swanson, a retired bank analyst from Burlington, Ont., says he supports universal health care, but wonders if limits on private health insurance still make sense. "If you can afford it and some company is offering the service, why should you ban it?" he says, voicing his approval for last June's landmark Supreme Court decision that struck down Quebec's prohibition on private health insurance. The court found that in some cases, patients were dying on waiting lists, and that the ban on private insurance "is not constitutional where the public system fails to deliver reasonable services."

Critics decried the ruling as an assault on public health care. But a new survey by Pollara Research shows a majority of Canadians (59 per cent) who are aware of the decision support it (the poll was conducted between Aug. 17 and Sept. 2). Further, 59 per cent of them said they supported proposals in Alberta to offer private insurance for non-emergency, publicly available services that would be delivered outside the public system. As well, 57 per cent support Alberta proposals for paying out of pocket for service enhancements, like better prosthetic joints.

But if Canadians are open to private insurance, they're more divided on the longer term impact, says Marie Larose, a senior vice president at Pollara. "They support opening up the system, but there is uncertainty as to what it means. They see positives, and negatives." A majority felt private insurance would reduce wait times and have a positive impact on the system as a whole. But most don't think it would benefit them or their families, and saw it creating a more expensive two-tier system. The poll also shows 54 per cent reject the idea people should be able to queue jump and pay for faster access to public health services.

The poll follows remarks by Quebec's health minister, Philippe Couillard, who said the province would abide by the court ruling and move ahead with expanding private insurance. "There appears to be a perversion of the debate here in Canada," he told reporters in Quebec City. "There are some people who associate any intrusion of private delivery of the health care system to some kind of social backwardness."

In Alberta, Ralph Klein has also vowed to expand private health services, even if it means violating the Canada Health Act. For several

As this winter's federal election campaign nears, private health care may not be quite the bogeyman it once was

months he has delayed outlining the exact details of the reforms, which were first held back after they became a major target of the Liberals during last summer's federal election. As this winter's campaign nears, private health care may not be quite the bogeyman it once was. Already, Paul Martin has rejected NDP demands for tougher limits on private care. John Church, a political scientist at the University of Alberta, says that because there is a feeling there is a wait list crisis, there is a "perception that governments can't deal with wait times, and it is starting to have an impact on public perceptions of the health care system." M

ON THE WEB For more coverage of the health care survey, visit www.macleans.ca/health

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MACLEAN'S
READERS' CHOICE
ACHIEVEMENT OF THE YEAR IN HEALTHCARE

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Who made the most significant contribution to healthcare in 2005?

- **Dr. Thomas J. Hudson**
 Director of McGill University and Genome Quebec Innovation Centre lead Canada's contribution to first Haplotype Map, a catalogue of genetic differences and similarities between ethnic groups
- **Dr. André Veillette**
 Montreal researcher led a team that identified a new anti-cancer, anti-infection response control mechanism.
- **Dr. James Till and Dr. Ernest McCulloch**
 Cancer researchers won the Lasker Award, North America's most coveted medical research prize, for proving the existence of stem cells.
- **Dr. Heinz Feldmann and Dr. Steven Jones**
 Scientists from the Public Health Agency of Canada helped develop vaccines against the Ebola and Marburg viruses.

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December 19 issue
On newsstands December 12

MACLEAN'S

ROGERS
Your World Right Now



HARD TIMES In Edmonton, the number of homeless has risen by 162 per cent in five years

Down and out in Alberta

The homeless population is exploding despite the province's riches, or perhaps because of them

BY PAUL BUNNER One recent and frosty morning, commuters heading into down town Edmonton on a four lane artery through the North Saskatchewan River Valley had to stop for a train Not a real train it's been half a century since the last one plied these parts This was made up of four shopping carts piled high with bottles, cans, plastic tarps and assorted junk, powered by a dishevelled man dressed in tattered clothes

Such destitute souls are an incongruous sight in the northern terminus of the scintillating Edmonton Calgary economic corridor, judged "the most prosperous and best place to be in the world" in a recent Toronto Dominion Bank report Yet a canvass conducted by the Edmonton joint planning committee on housing last year found 2,192 homeless people living in the city of 700,000, a 162 per cent increase over five years ago

A similar survey in Calgary pegged the homeless population there at 2,597, an increase of nearly 50 per cent since 2002 Experts say the numbers are still rising, and some foresee a doubling of that population within the next three years The boisterous Alberta economy is probably making things worse the TD Bank study found that rising real estate values are making it more difficult for the poor to find housing There are 18,000 Edmontonians spending more than half of their incomes on housing, according to Susan McGee, executive director of the housing planning committee The figure for Calgary is estimated at 14,000 A few missed paycheques could put many onto the streets

Migrants from other parts of the country are also feeding the homeless numbers And Darren Grove, head of Edmonton's Park Rangers, says many homeless people are determined to live outside the conventions of society "Most are there because that's where they want to be," says Grove, whose Rangers regularly deal with squatters He acknowledges that drug or mental problems are prevalent, and some live outside society because they're on the lam But homelessness is still a "lifestyle choice" for many, he says

Calgary cracked down this summer, issuing $100 tickets to vagrants, and the downtown business association recently launched a campaign to discourage people from giving panhandlers money In Edmonton, the Old Strathcona business association hired a social worker to try to talk the homeless off the streets, to little effect Meanwhile, the joint planning committee plans to spend $442 million between 2005 and 2009 on

In these boom times, rising real estate values make it tougher to find housing

4,700 new housing units, while the number of public programs and private agencies involved gets bigger every year

In January, Premier Ralph Klein's oil-enriched government will start handing out $400 resource rebate cheques Virtually everyone who was resident in the province on Sept 1 is supposed to get one Some fear that the homeless, who can't prove residency, won't be able to cash in. Others predict a windfall for drug and liquor dealers At best, the one-time rebate won't buy more than a month's rent, so it's not going to put a dent in the problem What will drive the homeless from the streets, Grove says, is the onset of Alberta's inhospitable winter when the temperature plummets, about three-quarters of Edmonton's homeless population disappears into shelters or other accommodations M

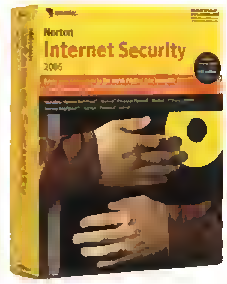
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NEW FEARS 'I thought I would be the last woman in the world to wear a hijab. But I have been forced to do so because of the insecurity'

JUST ANOTHER PRISON

Writer and actress Nelofer Pazira on the lot of women in Iraq

Even the armed American mercenaries fall silent. The waiter turns down the radio as the contralto voice comes from the plastic table by the door of the gloomy bar café in Baghdad's al-Hamra hotel. Schubert's *Ave Maria* drifts across this dismal place, its stale pastries displayed on the counter, its beer and gin bottles stacked guiltily by the bar. Eyes flashing with emotion, only occasionally raising her hand in the fashion of all opera singers, Ban Jamil, 34, sings with unreserved passion. This is Baghdad in 2005, in the land of kidnapping, throat cutting, ambushes. But her voice transforms this dark corner into a theatre. The audience of waiters in their grubby shirts, of American "contractors"—guns at their hips—turns into captivated spectators.

Leaning on the table across from Ban Jamil, Alsseel Kamal wipes away a tear. "I'm crying because this brings back so many memories," she says. Rarely have the occupants of this shadowy café heard anything like it. But this was no scheduled performance. Ban Jamil, an architect trained as an opera singer, was just singing her favourite aria for our benefit: myself and her six female friends. Only in Baghdad could you hear Schubert over breakfast in a hidden cafe, in a hotel standing behind barricades of concrete and steel.

The decrepit al-Hamra was chosen by Ban Jamil and her friends to celebrate Youssur al-Azzawi's two-week-old marriage. Youssur is there, too, a 37 year-old petite woman, her newly burgundy-coloured short hair styled to one side. "This is the best we can do for fun," says Mayada, Ban Jamil's sister. When the song ends, mercenaries and waiters applaud Ban Jamil's talent.

And her courage. "Nowadays in Iraq, it is not very safe for a woman to sing, especially in the presence of strangers," says Mayada. Under the previous regime, there were also risks, as Ban Jamil explains. "During Saddam's rule, I didn't want to be seen as a professional singer because there was always the fear that someone would report me and make me sing songs in praise of Saddam's regime." During that time, many singers fled the country and artists abandoned public life. "He destroyed everything for us," says Dr. Atia al-Khatib, who has returned from Libya after 14 years' exile. "Saddam was a nightmare," adds Ban Jamil. "He's gone—but now the nightmare continues." It is a point her sister Mayada emphasizes. "As a country and a people, we were cut off from the world. Saddam Hussein revived the power of the tribes, and the problem now is that the same tribal leaders are in charge. They will decide as usual what women can or can't do—and that remains a threat to women's rights."

'We didn't like the old regime, but now there is violence, corruption. If you talk, you'll be killed.'

Some of Ban Jamil's friends point out that a law introduced in the mid-1990s—when Saddam wanted to make concessions to religious tribal leaders—restricted women's freedom of movement. A woman under 45 could not leave the country without the permission or company of a male family member. "The current interior minister has reinforced this law," says Ban Jamil. "To find ways around it, women pay bribes. This government is as corrupt as the one before, even worse."

Mayada agrees. She rounds on one of her friends who praises the "freedoms" Iraq has supposedly been given. "The new constitution is a joke—it's intended to divide Iraq, to increase the power of religious men, who are already more powerful than they used to be." The women explain what they think is wrong with the female MPs who claim to represent them: they have all been chosen by men. "There is no woman among those in the government—or in the talks on the constitution—who represents us," says Ban Jamil. "This is a male-dominated country. The majority of those elected are more concerned about how to gain more power and territory."

Female MPs were all chosen by men—'There is no woman who represents us'

Amid growing anarchy, kidnapping and murder, families are fearful for their women-folk, especially for their daughters. Alsseel Kamal describes how she is now afraid to go to work, especially since one of her friends, a women's rights activist, was threatened twice by an Islamic party. "I try to dress down, and I don't wear jewellery." Her mother is already asking her to wear a veil, she says, "especially since we live in the al-Jamiah district, well known as an insurgency area." As an affluent woman, she is a target for kidnapping.

It's not just the lawlessness, but fear of a predominantly religious state that worries these women, who include Shia and Sunni Muslims and Christians. "The election was a sham," Ban Jamil says. "Clergymen told people that if they didn't vote for a certain candidate, they would go to hell. People, especially the ones with little education or who were very religious, felt they had to vote for these candidates. Is this what you call democracy?"

For Islamic groups, the changes are part of a new vision of Iraq. The Islamic Dawa party, which was brutally repressed under Saddam, is included in the new administration. One of its female members, who is also at the al-Hamra, says the government will not impose religious rules or an Islamic dress code. "You are free to wear what you want—we are not going to be like Iran," she insists. But, she adds, "I think the hijab symbolizes the beauty of a woman. I have seen many wearing it because they believe in it." She agrees the security situation is appalling. "I'm afraid. Rich people disguise themselves as poor, wearing discarded clothes, using cheap mobiles."

This woman is single. So are the majority of women I meet in Baghdad—most of them in their late 20s and mid 30s, educated, well informed and articulate. The Dawa woman sums up the problem of finding a husband. "We've lived with three wars—the Iran-Iraq War, the 1991 Gulf War, and now. Young men were drafted—many never came back, and many others fled." At the time of the Iran-Iraq War, men made up 51 per cent of Iraqi society and women about 49 per cent. Now the female population stands at 60 per cent and the male at 40 per cent.



MAN'S WORLD 'The city is full of macho men with guns who only respect their own power'

Mayada, 38, and a civil engineer, says she'd rather be single than marry someone who won't respect her as an equal. "Most educated people have left or want to leave. The city is full of macho men with guns. They only respect their own power." The Dawa member tries to be optimistic. Iraqis have learned how to tolerate difficulties, she says. "Shias suffered a great deal, but we survived Saddam, and we will survive this."



BAGHDAD SHOPPERS 'Yes, we can buy things at the market. But our country is going to ruin'

MARTIN ADLER/PANOS
OPPOSITE PAGE: ZOHRA BENSEMRA/REUTERS (TOP); ANDREW PARKINSON (BOTTOM)

Far from the al-Hamra hotel, in the Mansour district where insurgents control many of the streets, there is little chance for freedom of expression or dress. In the local branch of the Bank of Commerce, Luma Samir, 37, dressed in a blue blouse and long black skirt, her red hair tied elegantly behind her head, moves her glasses frequently as she speaks quickly and urgently. "We didn't have the freedom to express our thoughts before although we had security. We were like prisoners—it was like we were destroyed from inside, though it may not have appeared like that. Under pressure from the regime we couldn't breathe."

Her colleague, 29 year-old Ansam Abbas, is far more sceptical about the new era. "Yes, our salaries have increased and we can buy things from the market. But now our country is going to ruin. We didn't like the old regime, but now there is violence and corruption. This is the freedom they are talking about—if you talk, you'll be killed."

At this point, the ghost of the old Baathist regime makes its appearance. A little man in a dark grey shirt has been quietly spying on the two women talking to me. After a few minutes he leaves, seconds later, the bank manager arrives with a worried, stern face and mutters, "No politics." Later that day, part of the women's salary will be confiscated as a punishment for talking to me.

But Ansam goes on speaking. "I thought I

would be the last woman in the world to wear a hijab But I have been forced to do so because of the insecurity The majority of women wear the hijab because they are afraid" Ansam trained as a translator but has abandoned all hope of continuing most translators are now employed by the Americans or the new Iraqi government—and are targeted by the insurgents as collaborators As for the insurgency, she says, "I support those who attack Americans on their bases here, but not on the streets I don't support the killing of civilians"

A sense of hopelessness—almost uselessness—hangs over these women Rajaal Khozahei, a female MP in the Iraqi parliament, later tells me that women's rights are ignored or pushed aside by all members of the current Iraqi government "No one seems to be concerned about what women are facing in today's Iraq," she says

At the al-Hamra café, Ban Jamil's voice is heard again as she murmurs an old Iraqi traditional tune This time the other women join in There is a strange undertone of sadness to this song, the sound of the past "It's the story of two lovers and their life together," explains Mayada The women sing what they can remember of a story that has become an expression of their own frustrations

"There was a good musical scene in this country once," says Ban Jamil "I wanted to do a concert last year, but the person I had to practise with had to work, and because we couldn't practise late into the night, it was hopeless Besides, to arrange a concert now, you have to have good relations with lots of officials There are people in Iraq who would appreciate this kind of music, but how can I stage a concert when even weddings start at 2 in the afternoon for security reasons? To ask people to come and listen to me at 8 in the evening would be irresponsible"



OUT FOR A HENNA PARTY: women outnumber men 60-40

Ban Jamil sings one last selection, this time from a Handel oratorio When she finishes, the curtain of fear comes down, as surely as any theatrical curtain Temporary jubilation turns to concern "We have to concentrate on trying to enjoy the moment, because we don't know if we will be killed when we walk out of this place," Mayada says "I don't want to burden myself to think about the future any more We must live day by day" As we leave, "Be safe!" is the last phrase exchanged between us as the women disappear behind the concrete barricades M



SMUGGLING

How globalization caused a cross-border crime wave

BY STEVE MAICH The rise of globalized trade in the 1990s produced a quantum leap forward for mankind, from better working conditions and accelerated technological innovation to improved access to education and health care around the world But perhaps no group has profited more from liberalized trade than the criminal networks operating in the shadows of the global economy

Moisés Naim, editor of *Foreign Policy* magazine, has collected reams of evidence and dozens of anecdotes from around the world into a compelling new book, *Illicit*, in which he argues that the elimination of trade barriers has opened a whole new world of profit for smugglers, traffickers, dealers and thieves And whereas the old structures of organized crime operated as highly centralized, hierarchical enterprises, the new model is diverse, decentralized, highly mobile and more difficult than ever to track and capture

From counterfeit DVDs and financial scams to drugs, prostitution and slavery, illicit commerce has infiltrated every country on earth Its proceeds finance terror, manipulate local politics, and often make it impossible to discern what is clean money and what flows from the so-called black market "Not only is illicit trade on the rise, but its interplay with social crises—conflict, corruption, exploitation—is more complex than it has been since the abolition of the Atlantic slave trade," Naim says

The key problem, he contends, is that while markets have become global, law enforcement remains largely hamstrung by national jurisdiction What is clear is that governments are not in control, and efforts to rein in illicit trade have been sporadic and largely ineffective But that may be slowly chang

The problem is that markets are global, but law enforcement is a national jurisdiction

ing If globalization provided an unintended boon for criminals, 9/11 yielded an unexpected opportunity for law enforcement Because so much illicit trade is tied to international terrorism, the rise of security legislation over the past four years has provided the opportunity and political will to turn the tide

Still, there's still a long way to go, and there's no easy fix In reality, Naim says, the war will go on as it always has, twisting and turning like a constant game of cat and mouse The only question: who's the cat? M

THE ISSUE IN...

ENGLAND AND SERBIA: NAMES THAT STINK

With their rich linguistic histories, Europeans should have sorted out pleasing names for where they live by now. Yet last week, elderly Britons were still shunning retirement flats in an eight-month-old housing development in Purley called "Purley Gate." Builders are considering renaming the project Meanwhile, Serbians, alarmed at an exodus of disaffected young people, have successfully petitioned to rename their village from "Old Smelly" to "Spring."

KAEL ALFORD/PANOS (STAR LEFT); NORA PENHALE/SARNIA OBSERVER/CP



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FORTY YEARS the maximum sentence Black faces if convicted on all eight counts of fraud

WILL HE STAY OR WILL HE GO?

Now that he's charged with fraud, Conrad Black's real battles can begin

BY STEVE MAICH And now, the manoeuvres begin in earnest. With last week's fraud indictment, brought by the U.S. Department of Justice against Conrad Black and other former Hollinger International executives, speculation gives way to strategy. And all of it is built around one central question: will Black ever see the inside of a U.S. courtroom, let alone a prison cell?

He is facing eight fraud-related charges in the U.S. arising from allegations that he orchestrated a scheme to siphon US$84 million from Hollinger International and its shareholders. If convicted on all counts, Black could face 40 years in prison. But his lawyers last week gave every indication that they're prepared for a long fight to clear his name. "Conrad Black asserts his innocence without qualification with respect to each and every one of the charges set forth in the indictment," Edward Greenspan said just after the charges were laid. "It will be shown that he has, at all times, acted within the law. He is confident that, if given a full and fair opportunity to defend himself, he will be found innocent." So will Black surrender to U.S. authorities and show up in a Chicago courtroom this Tuesday?

On one hand, legal experts say Black should appear in court to bolster his claims of innocence. "It certainly doesn't look good to try and resist even going there and clearing yourself," said David Paciocco, former prosecutor and law professor at the University of Ottawa. But many others expect Greenspan will tell Black to stay in Canada until all avenues of appeal in this country are exhausted. Assistant U.S. attorney Eric Sussman said Friday, "We are committed to extraditing Mr. Black if he will not appear voluntarily." But that may be much easier said than done.



HARDBALL U.S. attorney Patrick J. Fitzgerald: if Black won't surrender, the U.S. will seek to have him arrested by Canadian authorities and extradited

If Black refuses to surrender, the U.S. will seek to have him arrested by Canadian authorities and commence an extradition hearing. Evidence against him must then be reviewed by a judge, who decides whether it is sufficient. If the answer is yes, the person can be extradited. From there, the file goes to the federal justice minister who decides whether to extradite. At every stage of the process, the decisions can be appealed, which is why extradition applications in Canada often take years to resolve. Another of Greenspan's prominent clients, Garth Drabinsky, was charged with fraud in the U.S. in 1999 for allegedly inflating earnings of his Livent theatre empire. He refused to appear to face the charges and vowed to fight any attempt at extradition. Drabinsky has not travelled to the U.S. since charges were laid. In 2002, Canada laid fraud charges of its own, and a trial is expected to begin in spring 2007.

Slow as it often is, however, extraditions do happen on a regular basis. In 2004, 42 individuals were extradited from Canada to the U.S.—six of whom went voluntarily. A few people facing American fraud charges have been extradited in the past few years, according to Justice spokesman Patrick Charette, though he declined to reveal specifics. The fact that Black is currently under investigation in Canada has no bearing on the justice minister's decision on whether to extradite. It does, however, raise big issues related to his defence. According to Black's lawyers, the U.S. charges and simultaneous Hollinger probe in Canada threaten his ability to get a fair trial in either country—a problem compounded by the FBI's seizure this summer of US$9 million in real estate proceeds Black had earmarked to pay legal fees.

The tandem investigations have exposed a little-noticed difference between American and Canadian law. Both countries consider protection against self-incrimination to be fundamental to their constitutions. But their protections operate in opposite ways—and may effectively cancel each other out. The gist of the paradox is this: in Canada, people can be forced to testify as witnesses in legal proceedings, but their testimony can be blocked from use should they themselves later face a criminal trial. In the U.S., by contrast, a witness may refuse to answer potentially incriminating questions by pleading the Fifth Amendment (as Black did in December 2003). But once a statement is made in a U.S. investigation, there is little restriction on how it can be used in court. And so the question arises: if a target of investigations in both countries is forced to talk in Canada, can a Canadian judge keep potentially incriminating testimony out of a U.S. prosecutor's hands?

Edward Greenspan says that would be impossible. He has asked for Black to receive a constitutional exemption from answering questions in Canada, to preserve his right against self-incrimination in the U.S.—a move that would stymie the Canadian investigation—but was denied. In a testy opinion last May, Justice Colin L. Campbell said he was more than capable of protecting the testimony and called the request "an affront." His indignation was echoed by a three-judge panel of the Ontario Court of Appeal, which upheld his decision this month.



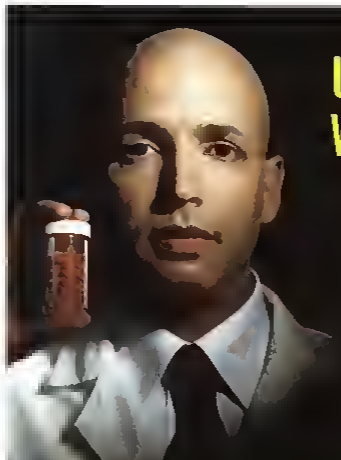
DEALS a shareholder with former Hollinger executive Peter Atkinson, also charged

The judges stressed there are many safeguards. The Canadian investigation is closed-door, and its findings controlled by the court. But Dalhousie University law professor Robert Currie said it's an "open question" whether testimony could realistically be withheld. "American authorities will move heaven and earth," Currie said, "and they will not necessarily go the legal route. A fax machine knows no borders. And all it takes is one disgruntled person to send an email." Furthermore, when Greenspan asked U.S. prosecutors for assurances that they wouldn't use Black's Canadian testimony against him in an American trial, he received "a polite and legalistic f— off," he says. Black's lawyers are considering fighting it all the way to the Supreme Court if need be, and that could mean Canadian investigations may be stalled, potentially for years.

All that will do little to cool the fervour of U.S. authorities pursuing Black, says Douglas McNabb, a lawyer specializing in U.S. federal criminal defence law. "The U.S. has indicted Mr. Black. The U.S. wants Mr. Black to stand trial in Chicago," he says. "They are going to take whatever legal steps they need to to have him brought to the U.S. to stand trial in the U.S." M

With Luiza Ch. Savage, Katherine Macklem and Patricia Treble

CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP FRED LUM/CP (TOP LEFT) KEVIN FRAYER (TOP RIGHT)



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PHIL NUYTTEN. his shop floor has more deep water dive capacity than the Canadian navy

How deep is his love

Phil Nuytten dreams of building an undersea colony. And he's got a plan that could work.

BY KEN MacQUEEN Hand Phil Nuytten a vintage copy of *Tom Swift and His Submarine Boat*, circa 1910, and his eyes light up as if it's Christmas morning. "Boy, I read a lot of this stuff," he says, thumbing through the yellowed pages of an undersea adventure as imagined almost a century ago. "A lot of gobbledygook," he says fondly, pointing out the scientific flaws in the imaginary sub's electric propulsion system, "but still wonderful stuff."

What separates the North Vancouver inventor and adventurer from the authors who stoked his boyhood imagination is that Nuytten, 64, has been making his dreams a reality since he began designing his own diving gear as a teen. At the risk of damning him with faint praise, the shop floor of his Nuytco Research Ltd. holds more deepwater dive capability than the Canadian navy. There, in various stages of construction, are pressure chambers, mini-submarines and armoured atmospheric diving suits—commercial products that have helped open the ocean's depths to exploration and industry. As cutting-edge as these products are, he sees them as a means to his most grandiose idea yet: cast in adventure terms, the working title would be Phil Nuytten and his Amazing Undersea Mining Colony.

The concept of Vent Base Alpha, as he calls it, is admirably simple. In much the way the invention of the automobile helped create suburbia, Nuytten's subs and armoured diving suits—allowing submariners to travel and work in the safety and comfort of the same one-atmosphere environment of dry land—have opened the ocean floor to habitation. Building an environment armoured against the crushing pressure hundreds of metres sub-

Volcanic vents give life to giant clams and tubeworms—and spew out pure metals. That's where the money is.

surface is no great technological feat, he says. All it needs is a reason to exist. "It's not enough to say I want to go down and build a colony at the bottom of the sea," he says. "It has to have some economically viable basis to it."

The answer rests in the surreal world of underwater volcanoes, like the Endeavour hydrothermal field off the Juan de Fuca Ridge, some 2,200 m below the ocean's surface and just inside the 200-nautical-mile economic zone off Canada's West Coast. Giant rock chimneys called black smokers spew superheated water, dark with dissolved metals and minerals, into the frigid ocean. The vents support bizarre life forms: beds of giant clams, crabs, crawfish and swaying tubeworms stretching more than two metres high. In Nuytten's view they could also support a human colony. It would be powered by the vents' heat and dedicated to mining the dissolved metals that rain down when the subterranean vent water hits the cold ocean. You get laboratory-quality purity, without the pollution concerns of a smelter, he says. "The stuff drops out, you put it into a hopper barge of, let's say, cobalt," he says. "You push a button. Gas enters the barge and, just like Tom Swift, you blow it to the surface, and tow it into port."

As fantastic as the idea sounds, he says he's already had some preliminary interest from some unnamed mining companies, though not yet the $10 million or so he'd need to test a prototype. "I think it's feasible," says marine archaeologist James Delgado, Nuytten's friend and a fellow adventure diver. Delgado is executive director of the Vancouver Maritime Museum and has explored shipwrecks around the globe as co-host of the *Sea Hunters* television series. "If anyone could figure it out, it would be Phil," he says.

Less enthusiastic is Richard Thomson, a researcher with the federal Institute of Ocean Sciences in Sidney, B.C. "It's not far-fetched," he concedes. Vent water is rich in minerals and the heat energy they generate is equivalent to a nuclear reactor. But, Thomson asks, a bit plaintively, "Do people have to go everywhere—can't they leave anything alone?" The Canadian vent field has been declared a marine protected area, making a colony there unlikely, he says. Besides, he asks, who'd want to live there?

Well, Nuytten, for one. "There's no reason why you can't live down there for generations," he says. "It wouldn't be very many generations before some little kid would be sitting on his mother or father's knee and saying, 'Is it really true there are people up there?'" He breaks into a grin, knowing the notion is outrageous—the way electric submarines were, until science fiction became fact. M

WAY OUT THERE

RUSSIA'S SLOWEST SPIES TAKE THEIR TIME

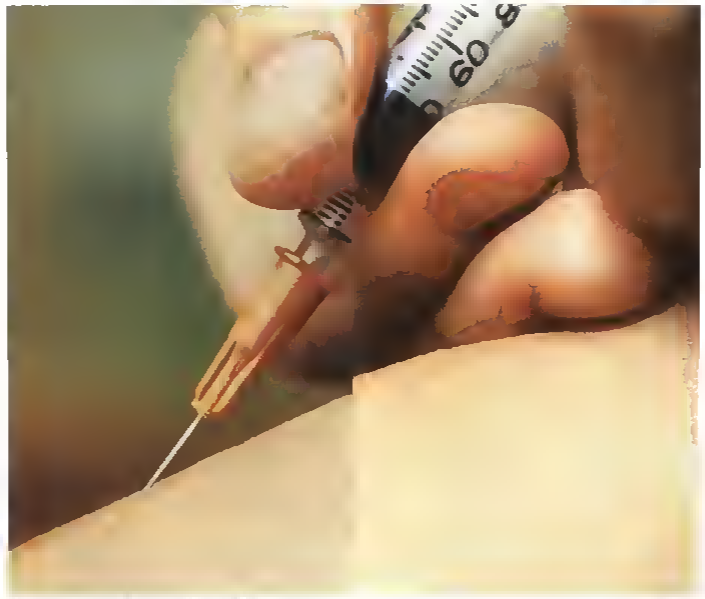
Aleksey Burikov has developed a new espionage delivery vehicle: remote-controlled turtles. The scientist from Rostov-on-Don, Russia, has equipped the animals with vibration-creating electrodes to make them turn by radio command and tiny TV cameras strapped to their shells. And Burikov notes that unlike human spies who must stop for lunch, a turtle-spy can stay on surveillance for a month without eating, though the car chases prove a challenge.

PHOTO BY CHRIS BERKLEY



A SHOT IN THE DARK?

Some doctors readily prescribe Depo-Provera as birth control for native women. Experts worry the drug might reduce bone density and help foster other ailments.



BY DANYLO HAWALESHKA Darleen Watts had heard enough about Depo-Provera, a contraceptive for women that doctors inject just once every three months. She was worried. A known, possibly irreversible side effect is significant bone loss, and reported complications include drastic weight gain, depression and hemorrhage. So Watts, who belongs to the Tseshaht First Nation on Vancouver Island, conducted an informal survey of 25 Aboriginal women among her family and friends. "Fifty per cent were on Depo Provera—that's an awful lot," says Watts, a former member of the First Nations Chiefs' Health Committee in B.C. Some of the women were only in their teens, still growing, and yet there they were, taking a drug that could permanently weaken their bones. And many didn't know it, says Watts, because their doctor hadn't taken the time to explain the risks. "It makes me sick that this is allowed to carry on within our communities."

The pharmacological sterilization of First Nations and Metis women with Depo-Provera, while temporary, is nonetheless raising serious health—not to mention ethical—concerns among community leaders, physicians and academics. Doctors suggest Depo Provera's use among Canadian Aboriginal women is between 10 and 20 per cent of those who practise contraception. (Last year in Canada, 625,000 prescriptions for Depo Provera were filled, worth $25 million, according to IMS Health, a market-trend watcher.) Caroline Tait, who teaches women's and gender studies at the University of Saskatchewan, worries Depo-Provera is being prescribed to Aboriginals without proper monitoring. "This is what's so frightening—it seems to be common practice, but no one's keeping track of it."

Use among natives is as high as it is partly because the drug is easy to obtain, even though, because of its serious side effects, it should be prescribed only after other birth control methods have been tried. But doctors contend young native women seem incapable of remembering to take a birth control pill daily. In fact, Depo Provera is sometimes the first thing a physician turns to, says Dr. Janet Smylie, director of the Indigenous Peoples Health Research Centre in Regina. "As a clinician working in a variety of settings, I've encountered colleagues who are using it as their first-line contraceptive for young Aboriginal women," Smylie says. "To solve the problem by temporarily sterilizing young women is ethically problematic."

Tait says she first became aware of Depo-Provera while researching fetal alcohol syndrome among natives. She noticed how judges, lawyers, social workers and teachers would readily label Aboriginals as suffering from the difficult-to-diagnose syndrome without benefit of a proper medical assessment. "In a hurry, and in an effort to address family planning and high fertility rates," says Tait, "the dominant society turns to something like Depo-Provera." The women are vulnerable because they have been marginalized, adds Tait, "and because there's a feeling of, 'Well, jeez, we've got to stop these people from having all these babies.'" (According to the most recent census, the Aboriginal population grew 22 per cent between 1996 and 2001, compared with a non-native rate of just 4.7 per cent.)

Pfizer Canada Inc., the drug's manufacturer, declined to be interviewed for this article, but issued a statement saying Depo-Provera, which contains the synthetic hormone medroxyprogesterone acetate, "has been used safely by millions of women around the world for decades." The World Health Organization says, "any lifetime increase in fracture risk is likely to be small," but acknowledges "key evidence gaps." Health Canada's view is that the drug carries all the appropriate written warnings, including "The use of Depo-Provera has been associated with loss of bone mineral density which may not be completely reversible." Loss of bone mineral density is greater with increasing duration of use. It is unknown if use of Depo Provera during adolescence or early adulthood, a critical period of bone [growth], will reduce peak bone mass and increase the risk for osteoporotic fracture in later life. Depo-Provera should be used as a birth control method only if other treatments have been considered to be unsuitable or unacceptable and should be used for the shortest period of time possible."

> 'There's a feeling of, "Well, jeez, we've got to stop these people from having all these babies"'

Washington-based Public Citizen, known for warning consumers away from unsafe prescription medications, says women should avoid taking Depo-Provera. "I can't see any therapeutic value in this injectable drug over contraceptives that we already have," says Larry Sasich, a Public Citizen consultant. "The loss of bone density could potentially be a lifelong problem for a young woman."

Through a website, *Maclean's* talked to two-dozen non-Aboriginal women—comparatively more affluent, and plugged into the networking capabilities of the Internet—about their Depo-Provera experiences. They were concerned by reports of bone loss, but they also told stories of catastrophic weight gain (anywhere from 30 to 100 lb.), depression and wild mood swings.

Health Canada has collected 581 reports of adverse drug reactions since it approved the drug as a contraceptive in 1997. (The system is voluntary, and Health Canada acknowledges "there is considerable under-reporting.") Both Health Canada and Pfizer Canada caution that just because someone reports an adverse reaction doesn't prove the medication is responsible. But when *Maclean's* randomly picked 30 women from the Health Canada drug database, their claims included such side effects as cervical cancer, vaginal hemorrhage, suicidal tendencies, depression, panic, weight gain, lethargy and nausea. Out of these 30 women, nine got pregnant.

Health Canada spokeswoman Jitina Vik notes that "no drug is without side effects." That comes as little comfort to Chantel Nagel, a customer service representative in a Regina call centre. Nagel started on Depo Provera when she was 18 and continued for about a year, gaining 30 lb. Her boyfriend at the time had suggested the drug. Nagel's doctor told her she might bleed vaginally after the first shot. She was not, however, prepared for the "black sludge" that streamed from her body daily for the next three months. "With other women I've talked to, we call it the 'black death,' because it's black, not like blood. It's terrifying."

> 'Other women and I, we call it the "black death," because it's black, not like blood. It's terrifying.'

Nagel also suffered from crippling abdominal pains. "If I moved, it was like someone ripping my insides out with a steak knife." Her period stopped entirely, another possible side effect—one favourably marketed on the drug's website. Her bones ached; she got migraines. She became severely depressed and "an extremely violent, angry person. It destroyed my relationship." Nagel stopped the injections in May, but she's still not fully recovered. "My periods are whenever they feel like coming. Sometimes I get them three times a month, sometimes I don't get them at all." She often has panic attacks. "I went from being a healthy 18 year old," Nagel says, "to a sick 20 year old medical wonder." But how does she know it's the Depo-Provera? "It all correlated around the shots. I would start to feel better, and then it would be time for another."

Because Depo-Provera allows for greater privacy, it's the preferred contraceptive for many young native women. In a devoutly Christian Cree community in the James Bay area, birth control pills are frowned upon, says a nurse-practitioner who worked in the region in 2001. A 15 year-old girl hoping to avoid pregnancy and finish high school, for example, would have trouble hiding her pills. "You have very little opportunity for keeping a secret in a two-bedroom house with 15 people living in it," said the nurse. The nurse also notes that in that Cree community, men's self-esteem is poor, and they worry about their women leaving them. So they throw out the birth-control pills and keep their partners pregnant.

Dr. Sally Mahood wishes there was another solution. A professor of family medicine at the University of Saskatchewan in Regina, she's put young Aboriginal women on Depo-Provera and seen them gain 20 to 30 lb. Given the native propensity for developing diabetes and the fact that being overweight increases the risk, says Mahood, "we're not doing them many favours." It's an ethical problem she faces all the time. "As a physician, you're always trying to minimize the risk, given no ideal option," explains Mahood. "My inclination is to stay away from this stuff because of the side effects, but you have to weigh those side effects against the immediate disaster that a pregnancy would be for a young woman."

The alternatives? "Education is prevention," says Watts. "We need to start funnelling health care funding to young women, men and families." We need to re-educate caregivers as well. "It's really hard to find a doctor who doesn't love Depo-Provera," says Nagel, who has consulted seven physicians. There is also an ugly paternalism on the part of health professionals, says Watts. "We've got to stop thinking we can pat young people on the head and say, 'We can take care of you, and this is how we'll do it—with Depo-Provera.'" M

CORBIS

MEDICINE

IS THERE A ROBOT IN THE HOUSE?

These microsurgeons are designed to crawl in, take care of what ails you, and crawl out

BY NICHOLAS HOHLER Much of Shane Farritor's work in the past has been in designing space rovers, the remote-controlled, camera-equipped buggies that tool around the surface of Mars. Now he and his team of mechanical engineers at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln have scaled those rovers down, creating miniature models that can tackle a different landscape: the inside of the human body, a place Farritor calls "very slick, very hilly and very soft." Working over two years with Dr. Dmitry Oleynikov, a specialist in minimally invasive and computer-assisted surgery at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha, Farritor's team has produced a crew of robots, each the size and shape of a cigar, and equipped with wheels treaded to negotiate the slippery surfaces of the liver or the large and small intestines.



BODY ROVER designed to negotiate slippery surfaces

Like NASA's Martian rovers, the robots, about eight centimetres long and weighing some 30 g, are built to manoeuvre off-road terrain, though they'll be slipped through an incision into a patient's abdominal cavity, which is then inflated to roughly the size of a football. "I said we need small little tiny robots that can crawl in, do the work and crawl out," said Oleynikov, who envisions a family of robots, some with cameras, others with scalpels, dispatched to extract gall bladders or perform biopsies.

Originally intended for surgeries under hostile conditions, Oleynikov now believes the robots could replace many open surgeries, reducing complications. The team has used the devices in animals, and may begin tests on humans next year. Meanwhile, Farritor's attentions have shifted back to space: he's designing a buggy that can rappel down the cliffs of Mars, where scientists speculate they may unearth fossils or other signs of ancient life. M

TONICS

UNDERGROUND MEDICINE FOR BREATHING EASY

Ukrainian allergists are treating asthmatics in a salt mine 300 m below ground. Eastern Europe has had salt-mine sanitariums for a century, but the Solotvino clinic claims it brings relief to up to 95 per cent of children and 85 per cent of adults. Visits range from three hours to overnight and some patients say their improvement lasts up to a year. However, they have to ignore the noise—the mine continues working.

NATURE



CALL OF THE WILD

Activists defend them, but the first fatal attack in 100 years shows wolves aren't so cuddly after all

BY CHARLIE GILLIS Every cause has its victories, but few can claim the success the pro-wolf lobby has enjoyed in the past couple of decades Armed with a menu of well-conceived mantras (wolves avoid people, prefer *not* to kill livestock, and live ordered social lives that would put a lot of humans to shame), wildlife activists have effectively defanged the beasts in the popular imagination It helped that, for all the myth weaving about hungry predators lurking in wooded shadows, not a single North American has been killed by a non-rabid wolf in more than 100 years

Now, as forensic pathologists investigate the death of a 22-year-old man in the hinterlands of northern Saskatchewan, the unvarnished truth feels a lot less reassuring While wolf attacks are indeed rare, the circumstances of Kenton Joel Carnegie's death suggest that relations between wolves and people are more troubled than originally thought—and may worsen as wolf populations thrive and the human footprint expands throughout the wilderness "We tend to think of these animals as playthings," says Tim Trottier, a biologist with Saskatchewan Environment who is familiar with the wolves implicated in the killing "Most of us don't have much real-life experience to balance that out. We don't know how to behave around wild animals any more"

Carnegie was certainly no wolf expert A geological engineering student from Oshawa, Ont., who was on a co-op assignment from the University of Waterloo, he'd been working in a Cameco Corp. mining camp in Saskatchewan's far northeastern corner Those familiar with the area say it's been home for several years to a group of grey wolves that scavenge food scraps and sometimes enjoy snacks tossed about by bored crew members And like bears that feed from garbage dumps, wolves turn capricious once they become dependent on handouts, says Paul Paquet, a University of Calgary professor who studies wolves Last December, a crew member at a camp near the site of Carnegie's death fought off a marauding wolf with the help of co-workers Cameco responded quickly, directing employees to seal away garbage, stop feeding the creatures, and avoid walking alone in the bush.

Whether the warnings reached Carnegie remains unclear, but on the evening of Nov. 8, he went out for a solitary walk and, two hours later, his badly mutilated body was found by a group of co-workers who went looking for him While no one witnessed the attack, preliminary results from an autopsy pointed to a wolf attack, said an RCMP spokeswoman, and officers attending the scene found wolf tracks all around the body Last week, provincial environment officials endorsed the shooting of two wolves so their stomach contents could be probed for traces of human DNA, and their blood tested for rabies Results were expected later this week.

With all signs pointing to a wolf attack, the incident represents an enormous setback for wildlife advocates "People are going to make a real big deal out of this case," says Douglas Smith, leader of a project that has seen wolves from northern Alberta transferred to Yellowstone National Park in Wyoming Since 1995, Smith has been patiently assuring people in the area that they can peacefully co-exist with the wolves In Canada, his counterparts have spread a similar message Three years ago, staff at Jasper National Park in Alberta began opening "wooded corridors" for wolves to roam ever closer to the Jasper Park Lodge and its world-renowned golf course Supportive hotel officials touted the opportunity for their guests to "view a greater variety of wildlife"—a line that might make their lawyers queasy today

The true wonder, however, may be that a fatality was so long coming One study by Alaska's Fish and Game Department catalogued 23 encounters between humans and aggressive wolves from 1990 and 2000, none of which involved rabid animals A handful were truly harrowing onslaughts, including a 1996 attack in Ontario's Algonquin Park, in which a wolf bit into the face of a sleeping 12-year-old boy, then dragged him two metres across the ground.

"We tend to think of them as playthings," says one biologist. "We don't know how to behave around wild animals any more."

A common thread running through recent attacks: improperly stored food or garbage And while biologists have long railed against such carelessness, none of these incidents has dispelled what Paquet sees as a false sense of familiarity with wolves on the part of the public—something for which he takes a measure of responsibility "I think there's a misperception that wolves are approachable," he says, "because people see researchers on television approaching them." The best hope, Paquet adds, is that Kenton Carnegie's death will inspire long-overdue respect for an animal we've only recently learned not to loathe "To have wild wolves living in wild areas is important," he says "But let's not forget they are large, capable carnivores They are predators that can kill, and we should avoid intruding on them as much possible." M

MAN VS. NATURE

THE DOMINO EFFECT OF SHOOTING SONGBIRDS

Dutch TV employees spent weeks setting up four million dominoes in an exhibition hall, trying to break the world record for toppling. But when a sparrow flew in and knocked 23,000 of them over, an exterminator shot it with an air gun. The marksman received death threats and bird lovers, noting sparrows are a protected species, led an angst-filled national protest. By Friday, the day of the domino show, the TV company included a memorial service for the bird

BUSINESS



STAFFAN WIDSTRAND/CORBIS
PHOTO BY SANDY NICHOLSON

MAVERICK MOVES "We were the barbarians at the gate," he says of the initial reaction

Wild on Wall Street

Canadian Thomas Caldwell is leading the charge to take the New York Stock Exchange public

BY KATREKINE MACKLEM Shortly after Thomas Caldwell bought his first seat on the New York Stock Exchange for us$2 million in August 2003, he received a call from Richard Grasso, then the exchange's chairman, thanking him for establishing a new high for NYSE seats Caldwell, a Toronto investment broker, replied jocularly that it was his job to make other people rich Within weeks, a scandal erupted over Grasso's $187 million pay package, Grasso resigned, and the value of an NYSE seat plummeted By January of this year, as the controversy over Grasso's pay lingered and a new NYSE scandal over trading fraud emerged, the value of a seat stood at $975,000, less than half what Caldwell had paid. That was the low With an audacious campaign to take the NYSE public, led in large part by Caldwell, prices have rebounded. At the end of last week, a seat was going for a new high of $3.25 million—the price Caldwell paid, on a last-minute buying spree, to pick up his 40th one. And if the Toronto Stock Exchange is any precedent, it's money well spent.

A headstrong scrapper and chairman of one of Canada's few independent brokerage firms, Caldwell has long been a maverick on Bay Street But at 62, he's been relatively quiet of late, leading some to think he was preparing to retire Wrong. He's had his sights set on Wall Street and the symbolic centre of American capitalism, the New York Stock Exchange This battle now is his biggest ever. to convince other seat-holders to approve a merger between the NYSE and the Chicago-based electronic exchange, Archipelago Holdings Inc., and become a publicly traded, for-profit company The deal, if approved in a members' vote on Dec. 6, will transform the 213-year-old exchange from an anachronistic old boys' club into a modern, externally regulated corporate entity Other exchanges, including Toronto and London, have already gone this route Instead of seat-holders, the NYSE's owners will be shareholders, able to buy and sell its stock just like any publicly owned company And Caldwell, who's been pushing for these changes, stands to make a killing

His model is the Toronto Stock Exchange, which went through a similar exercise starting in 1998—one that Caldwell, ironically, fought tooth and nail That time, he lost. "I was clearly wrong," Caldwell says now. "I didn't get it" Now he does. Prior to the transformation in 1999, a TSE seat sold for about $50,000. When the TSE went public, seat-holders received $5 million each in compensatory shares Caldwell estimates they're now worth $21 million, and calls it "probably the biggest play in the 40 years I've been involved in the securities business" In the heat of the TSE battle, Caldwell mocked its leaders for suggesting the co-operative structure that had served the exchange well for many years no longer worked "That could be a shock to the lads at the NYSE," he said at the time, referring to the New York exchange's power and strength

What *was* a shock to the lads was when Caldwell proposed they drop their old boys' structure In January 2004, he wrote his first letter to fellow NYSE members The exchange "is caught in a unique and ongoing quandary," he wrote While it is a "non-profit, quasi-regulatory 'utility,'" it needs to compete to survive, and the only way to do that would be to become for-profit and publicly traded, he said "Exchanges are monster cash generators, if done right," he told *Maclean's*. "And the NYSE is a brand name in this business It's like buying Coca-Cola before it goes public, as far as I am concerned It's amazing how many people did not see this"

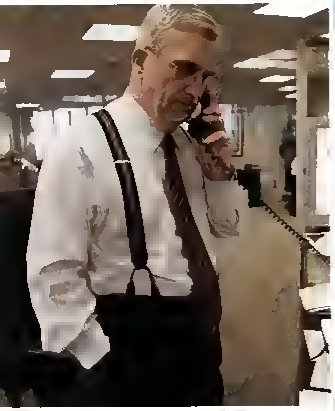
He then campaigned among the seat-holders, sending numerous letters and holding many meetings He canvassed members and directors, at first encountering much opposition. "We were the barbarians at the gate," he says But the Canadian, as he is known, recognized that the push back came from the seat-holders' gut instincts He'd felt the same way when the TSE proposed its new structure. Caldwell's licence plate still reads TSE 43, the clearing number from the day he bought his Toronto seat in 1980. Being a member of the TSE was, as he puts it, "part of who I was I was in a mind block in exactly the same manner as the NYSE people were I enjoyed belonging to the club So I fought change" And, he adds, "New York, quite frankly, is a very parochial city It's probably the most provincial environment I've ever been in If it hasn't happened in New York, it just hasn't happened"

'New York, quite frankly, is a very parochial city,' Caldwell notes

But slowly, seat-holders, many of them retirees who lease their seats to active traders, have been climbing onside While not the only advocate for a modern structure, Caldwell has been a primary force behind the changes "I talked to everyone I gave everybody the

respect that at least they were doing the right thing in their minds." In April 2005, the Big Board's new management under John Thain announced the Archipelago deal, providing the sort of platform the NYSE needed to become public and for profit. The merger offers 70 per cent of the new entity to the 1,366 NYSE owners, and 30 per cent to Archipelago's current shareholders. Caldwell doesn't expect NYSE shares to experience the same sort of increase the TSE enjoyed, but over time, with more potential mergers down the road, he suggests the value of a seat could be worth $9 million.

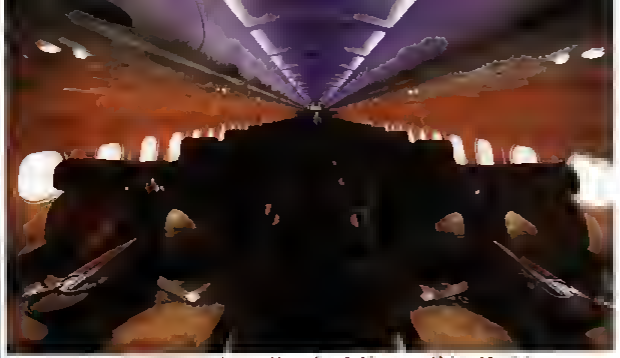
Not every seat-holder is happy with the deal, which needs two-thirds approval. But



'Exchanges are monster cash generators'

perhaps clearing the last pre-vote hurdle, the NYSE last week settled with 10 seat-holders who were in court seeking an injunction against the Dec. 6 vote. Led by William Higgins, the dissidents fear that the 70-30 split is not good enough for the NYSE's owners. Part of the settlement in the case is a new independent opinion on the fairness of the NYSE-Archipelago deal, due to be delivered this week.

Meanwhile, Caldwell, who has been nominated to be a member of the NYSE board, continues to acquire new seats. He bought five early last week at $3.025 million each and then his 40th on Thursday, making him one of the three largest seat-holders of the NYSE, alongside trading specialist LaBranche & Co. and banking giant UBS. "In our industry, there's nothing wrong with being wrong," Caldwell says of his opposition to the conversion of the Toronto Stock Exchange six years ago. "But there is something wrong with staying wrong." After Dec. 6, he'll know for sure if he's right. M

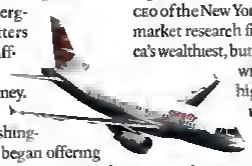


HIGH-FLYING: inside a MiMa jet, designed by Italian fashion guru Alviero Martini

AIRLINES

All the perks, none of the plebes

BY LIANNE GEORGE. If there's one thing high-end consumers enjoy more than a five-star hotel, it's the fact that nobody else can afford to stay in them. In the luxury market, exclusivity is king, which is why a new generation of boutique airlines is emerging to offer wealthy jet-setters the type of deluxe, riff-raff-free experience they've come to expect for their money.



Last month, New York-based Eos Airlines and Washington-based MaxJet Airways began offering daily round trip service between New York and London. Both companies promise private, fully equipped airport lounges, high-end meals, extensive wine lists, entertainment systems and ample room. (Instead of the usual 180 seats, Eos's Boeing 757s contain only 48, each of which extends into a 78-inch bed.) Eos, which caters to a more senior level of executive, charges an introductory return fare of US$5,000, significantly cheaper than a first-class return ticket on a major airline like British Airways. A one-way trip on MaxJet, which aims to undercut competitors' prices by 75 per cent, is currently on promotion for US$679. "We have very low costs," says MaxJet CEO Gary Rogliano. "We fly a single aircraft type—767s—and we focus on a single level of service."

Should the boutique airline trend take hold, it could spell more trouble for the major airlines, which are already losing economy customers to no-frills carriers like JetBlue and WestJet. Boutique passengers will have fewer flights and destinations, says Milton Pedraza, CEO of the New York-based Luxury Institute, a market research firm that focuses on America's wealthiest, but luxury consumers are often willing to trade flexibility for high-end service. "Whether it's reservations, checking in, unloading the plane, or the people you're sitting next to, the care you're going to get on a plane with only a few dozen seats doesn't compare to being on one of those cattle cars."

For those who want ultra-luxe treatment, MiMa will begin offering daily flights between New York and Milan in February. Operated by Italian airline Eurofly, MiMa's Airbus corporate jets will feature interiors by Italian fashion designer Alviero Martini. Passengers will be able to pre-select meals prepared by renowned Italian guest chefs. They'll also have access to a 24-hour personal concierge service in both cities that can arrange helicopter service to their final destination, should they require it. MiMa uses a private membership model, which means that even if a person were prepared to shell out the US$7,000-plus for the ticket, he'd have to be invited first. M

EMPLOYEE OF THE WEEK

NOVICE TAXI DRIVER PROVIDES SPEEDY DELIVERY

During his first week on the job, Chicago-area cab driver Nedal Haddad drove a pregnant woman to hospital, but before they could get there she began to have her baby. With relatives too panicked to help, Haddad pulled over on a busy expressway and delivered the baby, using a little knowledge picked up from a program about birth he'd once seen on the Discovery Channel. As a gift to the new parents, Haddad waived the US$60 cab fare.

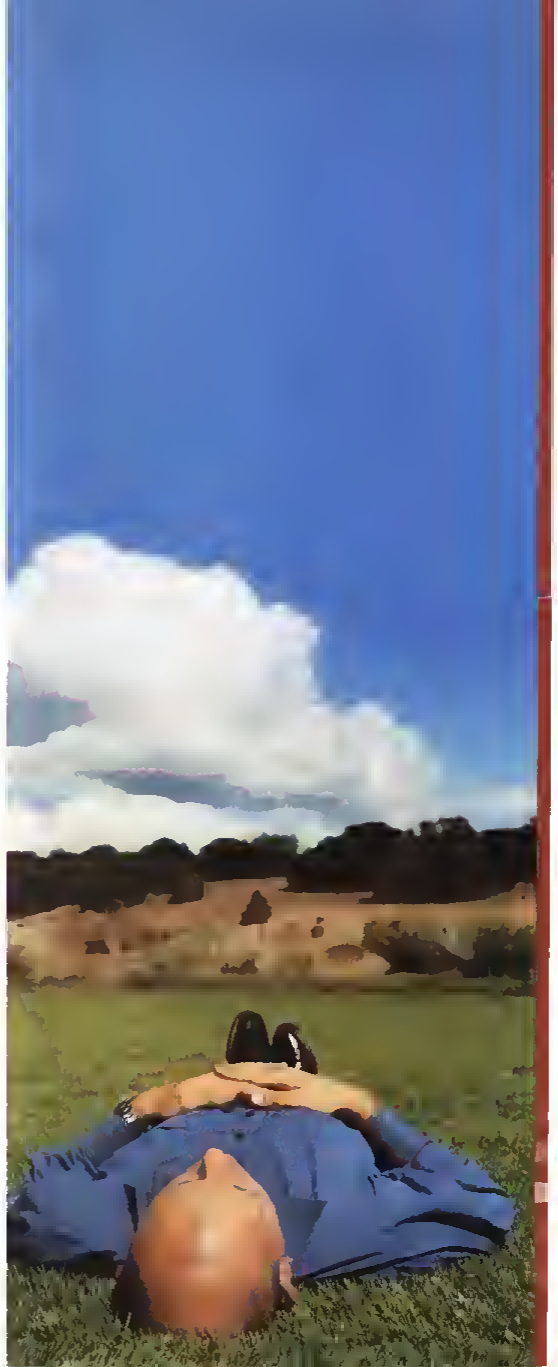


PHOTO BY SANDY NICHOLSON (LEFT)

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SPECIAL REPORT



THE NEW-CANADIAN ESTABLISHMENT
BY PETER C. NEWMAN

SEVENTH IN A SERIES

DAVID HO: ULTRA-SECRETIVE, AND ULTRA-RICH

The most imaginative and proactive members of China's diaspora belong to an informal network known as *guanxi* that serves as a conduit for their astonishing mega-deals. While precise details of this floating financial kingdom, based on a mixture of reciprocity and self-interest, are hard to come by, its clout is measured by one stunning statistic: among world economies, the Chinese diaspora ranks in the Top 5 in wealth and economic clout.

David Ho is very much an integral part of this formidable cousinhood, a vital link in the legendary Bamboo Network that stretches around the globe and perpetuates the notion that in financial matters, the family is the inner citadel where the important decisions are made. In other words, the extent of family members' fortunes is not even known to their bankers, and certainly not to itinerant journalists like me. Their operational code is simple: if discretion is good, silence is better.

I am the first journalist to interview the Hong Kong born Ho in any kind of depth, and many of my questions remained unan-

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swered. Still, in any survey of the New-Canadian Establishment, his presence must be recognized. I have no doubt he could buy and sell the half dozen millionaires I have portrayed during the past six months in *Maclean's* before breakfast, and ask for another helping of Cheerios, without realizing that his business day had already begun. His profile in Canada isn't low—it's non-existent. But he is currently investing in at least one highly visible enterprise, Harmony, his new private airline that he intends to build into a major carrier, so his days as a secretive backstage puppeteer may be numbered.

He did tell me that his grandfather was one of the first investors to back Bill Gates' computer dreams. (The US$2 million in Microsoft stock he purchased in the mid-'80s was cashed out a year or two ago.) And, yes, the family was early into IBM and remains a major shareholder in HSBC, the world's fourth-largest bank. All these and his other stock plays consist of less than five per cent of issued shares, and thus do not have to be publicly declared. David Ho is almost certainly the wealthiest of Canada's many Chinese zillionaires, but his companies are privately held and his balance sheets are jealously guarded.



Ho wants to build Harmony, his new private airline, into a major carrier, so his days as a secretive backstage puppeteer may be numbered. But his wealth is impossible to estimate, and he doesn't help you guess.

HULA TIME for Ho as he celebrates Harmony's flights to Hawaii (above), where he also owns two palatial homes; the luxury car dealership in Vancouver that he acquired in 1992 for a dollar (below, left); Ho's 13,000 sq.-foot home off Vancouver's Granville Street, complete with pond

With fuel prices at prohibitive levels and the threat of terror still hanging over air traffic, it's hardly an auspicious time to start an airline. But Ho, 53, has the courage of his convictions. He sees his venture as a way of taking the flying experience back to where it used to be, with meals served on porcelain dishes in an unhurried atmosphere that will make flying fun again.

It all started four years ago, when Ho and his younger daughter Kristen were stuck in Maui and had to wait 18 hours to fly home. "Air Canada kept saying, 'We'll fly soon, we'll fly soon,'" he recalls. "I was very frustrated. Even the captain lost his temper, and started screaming. So Kristen said, 'What are you going to do about it?' That gave me the idea, and I did a lot of research which satisfied me that there was a chance this business would be successful." On Feb. 16, 2002, the company was formed, and it started flying in early November.

Airplane food is usually an oxymoron, like Microsoft Works or Ottawa nightlife, but Harmony hired Bruno Marti (champion chef at Vancouver's La Belle Auberge) to produce feasts in the sky. The economy-class meals are the best I've ever tasted, and his business-class creations are unique. It's been a while since I've





'He operates not just outside the box, but outside the warehouse,' says one associate

chomped lobster and foie gras aboard Air Canada. Part of the luxurious business-class ambience are seats that not only feel, but smell like expensive leather. For entertainment, you're handed individual DVD, CD and video game units.

To liven things up, sometimes when he flies on his own airline, Ho stands up in front of the plane, identifies himself, and holds a draw. Those passengers seated in the lucky seat numbers receive one of the $100 bills that he peels from a roll in his pocket. (Robert Milton please note.) Harmony at the moment has only four planes (171-passenger Boeing 757s) that fly between Toronto and Vancouver and use that western hub for services to Honolulu, Maui, Las Vegas and Palm Springs. (In December he'll be adding flights to Hawaii from Calgary and Kelowna.) All this is a prelude to Ho's plans to break into the Asian market, especially China. Now that Canada has approved destination status with Beijing, Harmony has already been recognized as an approved carrier, and seems poised to sign a reciprocal agreement with China Eastern Airlines. It has the best chance of getting rights to those exponentially profitable routes because, well, David Ho is Chinese and has carefully cultivated the right contacts within Beijing's bureaucratic hierarchies. Major fleet additions are already being negotiated. "For Canada, the potential is huge," he says. "At the moment it's very hard for Chinese people to get visas to come here. When Australia was designated as an approved tourist destination, tourism went up 10 times, and now Canada has the same designation."

Meanwhile, Ho is enjoying life to the full in his Vancouver house, 13,000 sq. feet of marble and good taste off Granville Street. It is not visibly ostentatious, but as I considered its probable value, sitting in his magnificent living room on a recent afternoon, it occurred to me that not too many Canadian mansions have their own moats, as his does. (And it is not filled with hungry sharks.) He also has two palaces in Hawaii, one an exquisite house that is reserved for family retreats with his children Stephen, Cynthia and Kristen; the other, a mansion for which he recently turned

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CADILLAC DTS
BREAK THROUGH

down US$20 million. And yes, he does have a bodyguard, but his home also boasts a unique security system. In addition to the usual complicated electronics, it consists of the model of a police car that Ho acquired from an abandoned Vancouver movie set. The prop sits in his driveway, more of a scarecrow than a reality, but it keeps the burglars at bay. "That's the kind of guy he is, always thinking outside the box," says Bill Dalton, an adviser with Ho's companies and a former Canadian head of HSBC. "That police car model probably cost him $500, while I just spent $2,000 putting in a security system. It's a very good example of his thinking—he doesn't let his brain get cluttered with superficial, theoretical stuff, and uses common sense instead. He operates not just outside the box, but outside the warehouse."

Ho's second child, Cynthia, who just finished up at the University of British Columbia, disdains the luxury life. "She doesn't buy brand name stuff," Ho says, "and refuses to sit in my Bentley because it's too expensive, and she doesn't like that. I told her, 'We didn't steal the car. We had to make the money to sit in that car, and I worked hard for it.' Still, she says, 'Get a van.' That's why I've got a van parked over there," Ho tells me, shrugging.

Despite his wealth, or maybe because of it, David Ho is driven to achieve his personal best, a target that shifts ever higher as his empire expands. A team of specialists at North Carolina's Duke University recently told him that his brain never shuts down, and operates at Mach speeds with few respites. A nighthawk, Ho will take midnight walks around Stanley Park's seawall, accompanied only by his doberman-German shepherd cross, Kaila.

Unlike most businessmen, Ho doesn't golf, although he owns Vancouver's prestigious University Golf Club. "They won't let me play on my own course," he laments. "I kill the grass when I miss the ball." To relax, or try to relax, he prefers fishing, or going out in one of his boats or cars. He has at least three of each,

Ho's second child disdains the luxury life. 'She refuses to sit in my Bentley,' he says.



PHOTO BY BRIAN HOWELL (BOTTOM), VANCOUVER PROVINCE

HIS PERSONAL BEST is what acquaintances say Ho, pictured above with Harmony president and CEO Gary Collins, always strives for, Vancouver's prestigious University Golf Club (below), which Ho owns but which, he laments, he can't play because 'I kill the grass when I miss the ball'



including a 100-foot motor yacht that easily ranks as the West Coast's most luxurious floating pleasure palace. The ship has a dome that contains every conceivable form of international communication except its own area code. His guests swear he invites them aboard mainly to show off how well he can dock the giant craft. On open water, they share his excitement at slicing through the waves at 32 knots. "At that speed," he points out, "it consumes as much fuel as a 757." He purchased the vessel in Florida, went to the Bahamas for 10 days, then took her up to Alaska. But mostly it's his private toy, used as a place to celebrate deal closings. Also among his fleet is a 38-foot *Miami Vice*-style cigarette racing machine that looks as if it could outrun a jetfighter. On the ground, speed is equally important to him. He owns a Porsche, and a custom-made Ferrari Testarossa that he bought for $250,000.

His many close friends include movie star Jackie Chan, West Coast tycoon Jimmy Pattison, Vancouver networking king Lyall Knott, and Bill Cohen, the Republican politician who was President Bill Clinton's secretary of defence. (Cohen now sits on Harmony's corporate advisory board.)

His many close friends include movie star Jackie Chan, West Coast tycoon Jimmy Pattison, Vancouver networking king Lyall Knott, and Bill Cohen, the Republican who was President Bill Clinton's secretary of defence

It's a long way from Ho's teenage years in Hong Kong. He'd started in business at age 16, sorting tobacco leaves by hand in his grandfather's warehouse, but no school in the British colony would take him in. ("I wasn't much of a student. Too naughty. Too lazy.") He ended up at Woodberry Forest prep school in Virginia, and then the small, private University of Richmond, also in Virginia, concentrating on business courses.

Ho's biggest public investment before the anime was his purchase in 1987, for at least $100 million, of Gray Beverage, one of Canada's largest independent soft drink bottlers, whose products include 7 Up and Pepsi. (Its founder, Abe Gray, was best known for his dubious campaign to persuade Canadian mothers that babies preferred their milk mixed with 7 Up.) Ho has since sold the company at a generous markup. Bill Dalton, who was his banker for five years, learned never to expect the usual credit analysis or any other documentation when Ho wanted to make a major investment. "David would just appear and ask to borrow a considerable chunk of money, and he always got it," Dalton says. "It would be beyond my comprehension to ever think of him not living up to one of his commitments."

The Ho fortune originated with David's grandfather, Ho Ying Chie, who fled Shanghai in 1949 for Hong Kong before the Communist takeover, taking the family's wealth with him. Ho confesses that nearly everything important he learned about business came from his grandfather, who never got past kindergarten. "During the war, there was a paper shortage in China, and my grandfather was able to acquire a lot of paper," he recalls. "At that time, there was a cigarette company that had no packaging. So my grandfather sold them paper, and the guy wrote him an IOU. At the end of the day, the tobacco guy didn't have money to pay for the paper, so he sold the business to my grandfather. Eventually, his Hong Kong Tobacco Co. became the eighth-largest tobacco company in the world." Ho does his best to boost sales by chain-smoking company-produced Companion cigarettes.

The only other major business that he is publicly associated with is Vancouver's leading luxury car dealership. In 1992, when Vancouver investor Bob Lee was a partner in MCL Cars, the city's premier Jaguar, Porsche and Range Rover agency, it was losing money. Lee had doubts about being limited to luxury cars, and thought a Japanese car dealership would be a better bet. "We sold MCL to David Ho," Lee recalls, "because I knew he was a car nut. I phoned him and said, 'David, have I got a deal for you!' "

"What is it?"

"Do you have a dollar?"

"Sure."

"Well, you own MCL." And that was how Ho got into the car business. It's typical of the man that his dealership now leads the country in the luxury lines that squat elegantly on his sales floor.

The Ho family arrived in Canada in 1984, when David was 30, mainly because his then wife had relatives in Vancouver. "When I first came here," Ho recalls, "I'd never even heard of Vancouver before, but my wife was educated in Canada. In my mind at that time, I pictured that when I stepped off the plane, we would find horses to ride, because it was in the Wild West. I was most impressed—it was like being in Disneyland. I drove down Granville Street, and all the houses had gardens. The weather was very nice, and I said, 'We're going to stay here.' Canada has been a good place to raise a family. Still, I found Canada very slow. There were no fax machines. There was prejudice everywhere. Some people didn't like Chinese, but now, by and large, it's pretty good. But the taxes! In Hong Kong, we paid 14 per cent and had huge reserves, here, it was 50 per cent and governments ran deficits. But do I regret coming here? Not at all. I married the future." M

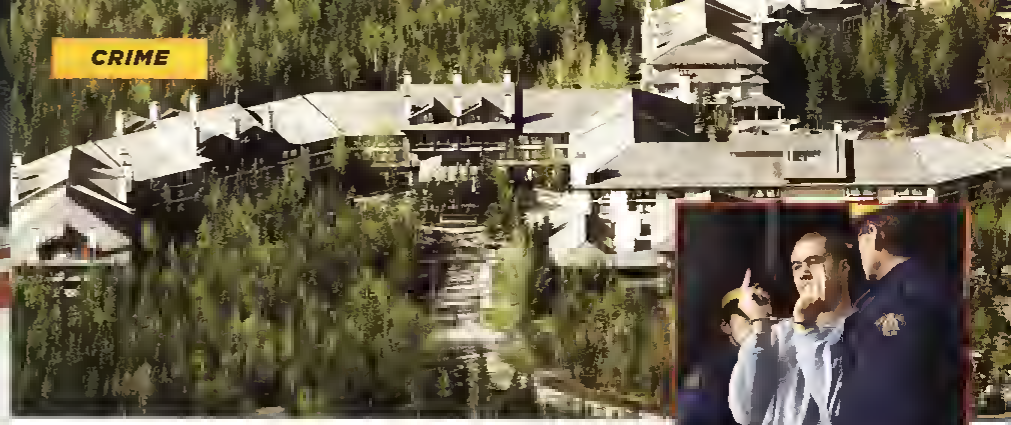
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MURDER AT THE COMPANY RETREAT

They ate, they drank, they played basketball in the pool. Then things got a little ugly.

BY JANICE PASKEY Nexxa is a small Calgary machining company that tries to do right by its workers. Besides the Christmas parties, there've been picnics and boating excursions for the employees and, for six successive years, a retreat to a nice hotel. On Nov. 6, 2004, Nexxa's owners, Beata and Jack Laskowska, brought a dozen or so employees, some with spouses or girlfriends, to the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis, a fancy hotel nestled in the Rocky Mountain foothills, an hour's drive west of Calgary, the same hotel that hosted the G8 leaders in 2002. The company had just moved at the end of September and the hotel was a reward for those who had helped with the transition. Beata Laskowska even brought the couple's 10-year-old daughter along. "We arrived at two o'clock for a late lunch. We came to have a few drinks, have fun, and no one would have to drive home at the end of the evening."

The Nexxa Industries group, mainly blue-collar machinists, had been booked into the luxury Signature Club section of the Delta, where they were treated to cushy bathrobes, free hors d'oeuvres, and panoramic views of the Rocky Mountains. The employees ate, drank, played basketball in the pool, and billiards, and then retired for the evening. When they woke up the next morning, the idyllic retreat had turned into a crime scene. Employees learned that one of their co-workers, Steven Tavares, 27, had been stabbed to death in his hotel room and that another, Stephan Gaetan Lee, 23, was being charged with his murder. As the trial got under way in Calgary last week, a riveting tale of "employee relations" began to unfold.

In 1998, Steven Tavares, originally from London, Ont., came to Calgary to join up with his best friend, John Dalton. The pair lived together for a while, Tavares returned to London to get his machining credentials, and then moved back to Calgary. At the time of his murder, he had been dating Ashley Morgan, a University of Calgary graduate, for a year.

As both Dalton and Morgan testified at the trial, Stephan Gaetan Lee approached Tavares with a credit-card scheme. For $1,400, Lee said, a buddy in Edmonton could get Tavares and Dalton fake cards with a $20,000 limit. Morgan told Tavares she didn't want any part of the scheme, and he didn't mention it to her again. But Dalton said both he and Tavares proceeded to get passport photos for the fake IDs that would accompany the credit cards, and in October Tavares gave Lee the $1,400. (Beata Laskowska told the court Lee had asked if he could borrow $1,500 from her a few weeks earlier. She had hesitated, saying she had to think about it, and Lee didn't ask again.) The excited friends began shopping for the plasma TV they'd buy with the card, but the week before the retreat, Lee still hadn't delivered. Tavares said Lee needed more time, Dalton recalled. On the Friday before the retreat, Dalton testified that Tavares told him he wasn't concerned, that he'd see Lee "in the mountains" on the weekend and would discuss it.

STEPHAN LEE was one of the employees treated to a night at the Delta Lodge at Kananaskis

Apparently they did discuss it. Co-worker Jason McKenzie testified all was peaceful at dinner, but that later the pair argued and fought, twice, and he helped break it up. The scenario was so strange. McKenzie wondered if the pair were play-wrestling, not fighting. McKenzie said Lee told Tavares, "You keep asking me about it every day—you won't quit." Lee went to bed, and at about 2:45 a.m., McKenzie was nearby when Tavares called Lee to see if he and Lee were "all right." Tavares's last words to Lee before he went to bed were "we're cool."

And then a hotel manager's worst night-mare unfolded at the upscale Delta. According to hotel staff, Lee went to the front desk, said he was Steven Tavares, that he'd locked himself out of his room and could he have the key. No, he didn't have ID—it was in the room. A hotel security guard accompanied Lee to Tavares's room and unlocked the door. Lee went into the darkened room, where Tavares was sleeping, got Tavares's wallet out of a pair of jeans hanging over a chair, and showed identification to the security guard. A few hours later, Tavares was found by an RCMP officer, stabbed to death, and Lee was arrested at his parents' Calgary home and charged with first-degree murder.

Last week, back at Nexxa, Beata Laskowska, who emigrated from Gdansk, Poland 16 years ago, ruminated about her company's business philosophy. She remembered auditing books for companies who looked out for employees. "I'd see companies that were doing well do things like take employees to Las Vegas. When we started out company we wanted to be like that." And now? "I'll think twice about going out [with employees]. I didn't really know what was going on behind the closed doors." M

ADRIAN WYLD—CANADIAN PRESS

CRIME

BIG-NAME BANDITS

From 'Likeable Rogue' to 'Bookworm Bandit,' bank robbers always get the best nicknames



MONIKERS From left: 'Red' Ryan, the alleged Recipe Card Bandit, and the Cellphone Bandit. Getting a name, one officer says, is 'a little thing for them to brag on'

BY NICHOLAS KÖHLER Dispatched by the *Toronto Star* to Kingston Penitentiary in the fall of 1923 to cover a daring prison break, Ernest Hemingway described one of the fugitive inmates as a "thick, freckle-faced man whose prison cap could not hide his flaming head." Norman (Red) Ryan went on to become one of Canada's most notorious bank robbers in an era when that vocation still held some mystique. Ryan twice escaped from Kingston Pen, first as part of the 1923 gang, then years later when he conned authorities into believing him reformed (so successful was his ploy that one Toronto newspaper ran the headline "Famous bandit proves tender nurse in prison"). Red, of course, was far from reformed, and was gunned down in 1936 robbing a liquor store.

Today, bank banditry is peopled with less romantic and normally less clever figures—drug addicts and gamblers—but police investigators like to christen them in terms close to endearment: the Gilligan Bandit of Calgary for his Tilly hat, the Fishnet Bandit, who disguised himself with a pair of tights, or the Recipe Card Bandit, who delivered his demands scrawled on the stubby index cards bakers reserve for flour-to-water ratios and nutmeg portions. Undisguised and casually dressed, the Recipe Card Bandit was in and out of some 31 banks before anyone but the teller knew of the robberies, hitting as many as three on Nov. 10. Last week, after the Canadian Bankers Association took the rare step of offering a $10,000 reward, tips led police in Mississauga, Ont., to arrest a 36-year-old man.

In an American case that also saw arrests last week, a young Hispanic woman approached tellers in four Virginia banks with a telephone clutched to her ear, chatting away as she pushed a note across the counter demanding cash—a modus operandi that led police to dub her the Cellphone Bandit. Investigators now say Candice Martinez, the 19-year-old charged in the heists, had been speaking to her boyfriend and co-accused, Dave Williams, also 19, a former bank employee who allegedly acted as lookout.

Such arrests just go to show that robbing banks isn't easy. Police in Canada say they nab as many as 95 per cent of bandits. Most don't present investigators with much of a challenge. Staff Sgt. Dave Loule, head of the robbery unit for the Calgary Police Service, recalls one man who fled a bank by city bus. Indeed, among bandits, "there's not going to be a lot of University of Toronto graduates, if you know what I mean," said Det. Sgt. Brian McCready of the Toronto Police Service. "They just want some cash to get them through the day," he added. "Usually for drugs." Their addictions lead them to depend on the fast cash of the heist, forcing serial performances that earn them their nicknames—and usually get them caught.

Such names, used by police as a kind of shorthand to distinguish cases, are as colourful as they are legion. "The bad guys like it, too—some of them refer to themselves as their little nicknames when they get caught—just a little thing for them to brag on," said McCready. There is Toronto's Big Boy Bandit, named last year for his 350 pounds. Christopher Osguthorpe's take on banditry in British Columbia last year had even the Crown who won his conviction calling him the Polite Bandit and the Likeable Rogue. Ottawa's Bilingual Bandit wrote holdup notes in both official languages. In the late '90s, Toronto police sought the Homer Simpson Bandit, so named for his stunning resemblance to the Matt Groening character, in three robberies.

For sheer weirdness, though, no bandit competes with Christine White, denied parole from Joliette last August. Known as the Bookworm Bandit for flashing tellers notes glued into a hardcover book, she was born Anatoli Misura and turned to robbery after a sex-change operation left her in debt and unable to secure a job. In 1998, she launched a cross-Canada, 31-stop robbery spree, netting some $70,000. Also dubbed the Unisex Bandit, White tied her shoulder-length hair up and strapped down her breasts, presenting herself as the man she no longer wanted to be.

Then there is Edwin Alonzo Boyd, who began as a garden variety—if successful—bank robber and ended up a kind of saint. Good-looking and not without charm, Boyd claimed he turned to banditry after his policeman father failed to make him a violinist. In the late '40s and early '50s, his notorious Boyd Gang, which included a Niagara Falls hairdresser and a man with an artificial foot, staged numerous daylight heists, while Boyd himself twice escaped prison. For 35 years prior to his death at age 88, however, Boyd drove a bus for the disabled and shared his home with his paraplegic wife, Marjorie, and Pearl, their invalid friend. M

The Fishnet Bandit wore tights. The Big Boy Bandit weighed 350 pounds. And Ottawa's Bilingual Bandit always wrote holdup notes in both official languages.

COLLAR OF THE WEEK

INATTENTIVE CROOKS LEAVE PAPER-JAM TRAIL

Arizona counterfeiters, allegedly responsible for 10 per cent of all bogus money circulating in the state, seemed to have worked out a profitable scheme. They printed money on home computer equipment and used complicit Wal-Mart employees to get the bills into circulation. But they came undone when several of the alleged culprits sent a computer printer out for repair. Technicians found the printer jammed with newly printed counterfeit bills.

MACLEAN'S/JARROD (LEFT); AP (RIGHT)



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BLINGING UP BABY

Luxury products target a brand-new consumer



AN UPSCALE LIFESTYLE MAGAZINE for sophisticated parents" is being launched this week

BY LIANNE GEORGE As consumers go, babies are a bit exasperating. The average baby, for instance, doesn't seem to care whether the carrier she's being carted around in is the latest or most deluxe model on the market. She doesn't waste time weighing the value of eating organic. And although she may look adorable in her miniature pink hoodie, it makes no difference to her whether it comes from Burberry or Wal-Mart, as long as it absorbs drool with relative efficiency. And yet—like the new pampered dogs, with their designer totes and Swarovski crystal collars—babies, unwittingly, are now among the most prolific consumers of luxury goods, increasingly treated to high-end fashion, cuisine and even skin-care products expressly designed to mirror their parents' taste and lifestyle, as though they were living, breathing little brand extensions.

Fuelling this mini-me approach to baby rearing is a new "upscale lifestyle magazine for sophisticated parents" called *Cookie*, being unveiled this week by New York based Fairchild Publications. Billed as a "stylish and worldly mom treat," *Cookie* belongs to a genre of aspirational shopping magazines like *Cargo* and *Lucky* that uses fetishized product shots to paint irresistible pictures of a life less ordinary. The debut issue, which features US$145 cashmere baby sweaters, a US$50 stain-resistant play rug, and tips on hosting a fabulous evening soiree with baby in tow, suggests a glamorous image of parenthood far removed from dirty diapers and sleepless nights. This is a universe in which mothers teach their children to drink from modern Japanese sake cups and feed them gourmet baby food based on recipes devised by celebrity chefs like Robert Stehling and Sarah Moulton. In *Cookie*-land, every Sunday afternoon is a Madeleine-themed tea party at New York's Carlyle Hotel. Just because you're a mother, the message goes, it doesn't mean you have to compromise your personal lifestyle.

According to Kim Becker, the owner of Baby Marketplace, an upscale online retailer based in Vancouver, the range of luxury baby products now available is mind-boggling—and ever-expanding. "There are perfumes, organic foods, organic clothing and skin care products," says Becker, whose sales have increased by 700 per cent since she began her business five years ago. "There are essential oils, sprays to soothe, bath products to make baby sleepy and to rejuvenate."

Most notably, trend conscious mothers want high-quality, sophisticated fashion. "The sleeper generation, when you dressed your baby in a sleeper until they could walk, that's gone," says Becker. "These babies are dressed up. Soft-soled shoes are all the rage. The mom might have Uggs and so the baby has Uggs." Designers like Dolce & Gabbana, Gucci and Versace have begun offering miniature versions of the kinds of outfits women are eyeing on the runways. In Canada, Holt Renfrew has announced its intention to reintroduce designer baby wear. In the coming months, including lines from Dior and Etro.

Luxury baby services are springing up as well and, as usual, Los Angelinos are ahead of the curve. One L.A.-based company called Homemade Baby will deliver fresh, homemade organic baby foods daily to your door, much like The Zone for babies. (They'll even do kosher.) Playing off mom's love of wine tastings, the company also hosts weekday baby-food tastings in which babies are invited to come and test which flavours they like best. For jet-setting moms, there's Baby Delish, which offers a baby concierge service. The company will baby-proof hotel rooms, provide baby-friendly limousine service, and deliver top-of-the-line gear for play, bath or mealtime at a moment's notice.

Gucci and Versace now outfit babies, and Holt Renfrew will soon introduce lines from Dior and Etro

Oscar-winning actress Gwyneth Paltrow, who has a 19-month-old daughter, Apple, and who is rumoured to be pregnant again, is the archetypal *Cookie* mother. Stylish, rich and always noticeably thin, Paltrow reportedly spends her afternoons playing with her daughter, massaging her with organic skin lotions and feeding her macrobiotic fare. When Paltrow needs a little me-time, she'll leave Apple with one of her nannies, toss on something fabulous and shop or yacht or dine with Valentino. No fuss, no muss. In the current issue of *InStyle* magazine, Paltrow wonders why more women don't get into this mothering game. "I sort of look at some peers of mine and I think, 'No, you've got it all wrong.' I just want to tell them all to have babies and be happy, and not get sucked into that Hollywood thing." M



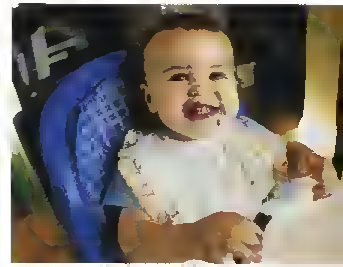
IRELAND, WITH A PINT BEFORE THE BIG LAST CALL

An Irish nursing home insists that its elderly patients are living longer and more happily thanks to the opening of a pub on the premises. St. Mary's Hospital in County Monaghan operates like any regular pub and charges similar prices. The home's nursing director says that a pub's social aspect prevents the life-shortening boredom that many elderly patients experience. Drink up, enjoy yourself, it's later than you think.

MARTIN PARR/MAGNUM

MUMMY WANTS IT YUMMY

Forget the congealed veal paste. Say hello to chicken risotto in a jar. For today's 'yoga-moms,' only organic and homestyle baby food will do.



UPSCALE GOO. "Of course it isn't geared to the child. It's geared to the mom's palate."

PHOTO BY ANDREW TOLSON/MACLEAN'S

BY CATHY GULLI "It's disgusting. Just disgusting. You open up a jar of veal, and it's grey and there's a layer of water on top, and it's got a three year shelf life!" So says Tamar Wagman, a mom who refuses to feed her 22-month-old son traditional jarred baby food. "The common reaction is, 'I wouldn't eat this, so why would I feed it to my baby?'" It was that question that propelled Wagman and childhood friend Eryn Green into the baby-food business a year ago. Their Toronto-based company, Sweetpea Baby Food, is aimed at a growing market of moms looking for more appetizing and nutritious meals for their kids. "There is this whole yoga mom segment emerging, where mom is very interested in health—her own health and her children's health—and she's suspicious of packaged food," explains Dana McCauley, an industry consultant in Toronto. "There is obviously opportunity for people to do something different."

It's a trend that has taken hold of a once sleepy business, driving U.S. sales of organic baby food up 18 per cent since last year, and 57 per cent since 2001, according to market research firm ACNielsen. McCauley expects to see similar improvements in Canada as new product lines make their way into grocery stores across the country. Sweetpea's organic fruit, vegetable, chicken and other meat purées are blast-frozen and sold in ice-cube trays at grocery stores across Ontario. "Freezing it retains all of the original taste of the product so you're getting that homestyle taste, where as jarred baby foods taste very processed," Wagman says.

But if better taste was an advantage the upstarts were hoping to exploit, they may be in for more competition than they expected. The food industry's biggest players are launching new products marketed as "homemade" to appeal to these conscientious parents, such as the H.J. Heinz Co.'s line of Mom's Recipe foods, inspired by recipes sent in to the company by real mothers. McCauley, however, thinks the smaller producers still have an edge. "Is it homemade?" she asks. "No, it's not. What they mean of course is that it's better than the traditional packaged product. It's a very interesting marketing and psychological trick. It's a half truth at the very most."

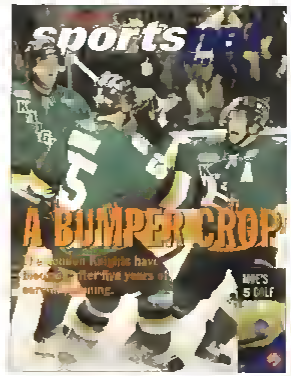
Truthful or not, the "homestyle" baby food is proving to be a big seller—not because it's necessarily better, but because the idea appeals to the adult buying the stuff rather than the baby eating it. Why else would food companies be rolling out fancy new flavours such as chicken risotto? "Of course, that isn't geared to the child—they can't read," McCauley says. "It's geared to the mom's palate." M

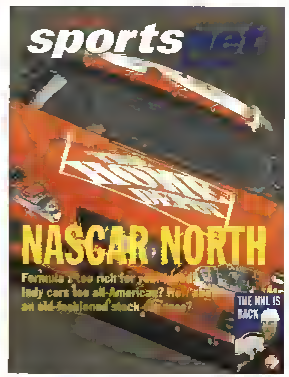
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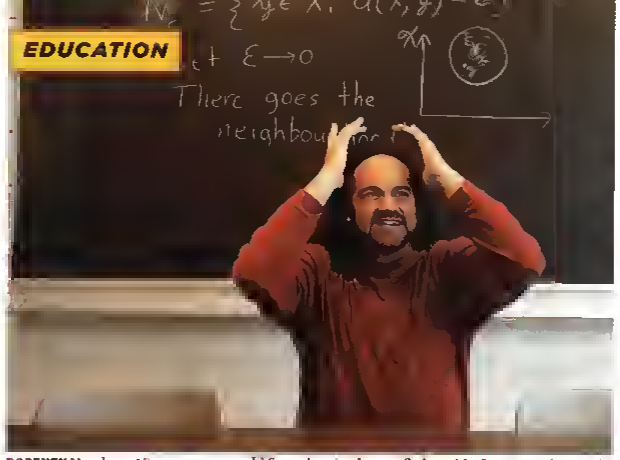
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ROSENTHAL, who is 38, is verging on old fogeydom in the rarefied world of cutting edge math

PHOTO BY PETER BREGG/MACLEAN'S

Prof. Jeffrey Rosenthal isn't just another math geek. Occasionally he's a Serial Diner geek.

FUN WITH NUMBERS

BY KATE FILLION Jeffrey Rosenthal doesn't want to be known as a math geek. Yes, his parents, grandfather and uncle all taught math, and he got his Ph.D. from Harvard at the age of 24. And yes, he writes thick college textbooks full of weird squiggles and symbols. But Rosenthal, a professor in the department of statistics at the University of Toronto, insists he is not "some nerdy genius with no interest in anything but mathematics."

Proof? Rosenthal, a tall and solid man with an emphatic puff of curly hair, is an accomplished amateur musician who performs on keyboards, guitar and harmonica. And he's an occasional Serial Diner, which is to say he belongs to a group whose mission it is to dine at every restaurant in the Toronto Yellow Pages, in alphabetical order. The Serial Diners, who celebrate their 16th anniversary this week, meet every Friday and have reached the middle of the H listings.

"You don't spend 45 minutes arguing, 'Should we go to this restaurant or that one?' There's no choice, you have to go to the next one on the page whether it's good, bad, or about to be closed for health violations," says Rosenthal. "We rarely make reservations, so sometimes there's no room for us—or it's a fancy place and they look us over and decide there's no room."

And this particular hobby isn't a little, um, geeky? "Just as a group of people might decide to climb Everest, they might also decide to work through the Yellow Page listings of restaurants," Rosenthal laughs, with the contented air of a man who doesn't care what anyone else thinks. Except he does. He wants to become the Oliver Sacks of mathematics—and that requires appealing to a general audience, as he does in his recent math-for-the-masses primer, *Struck by Lightning: The Curious World of Probabilities*, already in its third printing.

Numbers are fun is the main message of the book, which explains to the layman how to analyze the likelihood of seemingly random events—crime, plane crashes, winning the lottery—using a probability perspective, and how to interpret polls and medical studies. Among other things, Rosenthal explains why computers are unable to create true randomness—they can only fake it—and why you're more likely to die of a lightning strike in Wyoming than in Rhode Island. It's the kind of entertaining romp, grounded in quotidian anecdotes, that makes you feel a little smarter than you really are.

Yet Rosenthal did not even tell most of his colleagues he was writing it. "In pure mathematics there's a feeling that you write for the general public because you can't hack it in the research world." It's not a perception he wants to encourage at the age of 38, which is verging on old fogeydom in the rarefied world of cutting edge math. "It's a young person's game—there's the idea that it requires a sharpness of mind that fades with age. The Fields Medal, which is the mathematical equivalent of the Nobel, is only given to mathematicians under 40."

So while Rosenthal is eager to popularize quantitative ideas, he does not want to lose the respect of the few dozen other experts in the world who research Markov chain Monte Carlo algorithms.

This is why, perhaps, no mathematicians were invited one evening not long ago when he performed at the Black Dog Theatre in Toronto along with some other improv comics and pretended to be, in rapid succession, a banana farmer, a dumb boyfriend, and a zookeeper. Improvisational comedy requires not just mental agility but a willingness to risk looking like a damn fool, leaping around in

'Sometimes there's no room for us—or it's a fancy place and they look us over and decide there's no room'

a faded green polo shirt and pleated khakis, Rosenthal, who has been doing improv for about 10 years, appeared to have nailed both requirements.

Afterward, the performers retired to a bar. "I like to keep various aspects of my life fairly separate," Rosenthal said, sipping a soft drink. (Aside from having half a beer on one occasion and tasting champagne on another, he doesn't drink.) "Hey, did I just read somewhere that you wrote a book?" someone asked, out of the blue. Rosenthal's smile was friendly, but his nod was noncommittal.

This ambivalence is even more evident in the classroom, where, like many professors, he assigns his own book. He may be the first, though, to keep a sack of toonies on hand as penance. "It seems like a conflict of interest to make a profit off my students," he explained. "I get about $2 for every copy sold, so I refund that if they want me to." So far, the sack is still full. M

BLACKBOARD JUNGLE

READING, WRITING AND METH

Narcotics police in Skegness, England, were giving a school demonstration on how dogs sniff out drugs when they put a packet of speed in 10-year-old Kia Butterfield's school bag. The trouble was they forgot to take it out after the demo, and Kia found it later when she got home. Kia's irate mother said her three-year-old, Kenya, was playing near the packet at the time of discovery. "She could have mistaken it for a bag of sherbet," Amanda Butterfield fumed.



'BASICALLY YOU HAVE A BUNCH OF REALLY SMART PEOPLE WHO ARE BORED OUT OF THEIR MINDS. SO ALL THEY DO IS SCREW AROUND ALL DAY.'—ACTOR FABRIZIO FILIPPO, ON THE LIFE OF A LAWYER

1. HE'S LOOKING FOR A BIT MORE THAN BEER MONEY

DAVID RANNER's million dollar idea only cost him $14 (for an Internet domain name) and a bit of time. The University of British Columbia history student unveiled it recently by launching *www.milliondoonepage.ca*—he sells space on his website at $1 a pixel, which provides a link to a buyer's personal or business site. This is Bakker's way of off setting student debt—and then some. "I'm about $10,000 in debt with three years of school left before I become a teacher," says Bakker, 22, who copied the model from a U.K. site that has earned the owner about $500,000. "If things work out, I'll be arriving at school in style." He's well on his way, having collected $2,300 in the first week. But not everyone need apply. "I won't link to anything obscene," says Bakker. "I really want to keep things G-rated."

2. EVELYN GLENNIE TOUCHES THE SOUND

EVELYN GLENNIE is considered the world's finest solo percussionist. She is also profoundly deaf, and hears sound by sensing vibration through her body. But the 40-year-old Scot, who lost her hearing at 12, doesn't want to talk about her impairment. "Having relatively short arms," says Glennie, "can be a challenge when I'm playing multi-percussion pieces or a five-octave marimba. That's more of a handicap than being deaf." Glennie is the subject of *Touch the Sound*, a mesmerizing documentary that visualizes how she senses music. "The notion of seeing the sound," she says, "is about feeling the sound."

3. NO SHORTCUTS WITH THIS GUY AROUND

Still reeling from the humiliating experience at last month's Marine Corps Marathon in Washington, the JeansMarines have brought U.S. Marine Maj. **DAN O'CONNOR** on board as chief ethics officer—an obvious effort by the Toronto-based women's running team to earn back some credibility. As for the recent controversy, caused by members who took a short cut and shaved 6.4 km off the race, O'Connor says it's a simple fix. "You take the face shot," he says. "You made a mistake, it was stupid, apologize, move on. You can't spin it."

4. THE LIFE OF A LAWYER CAN BE PRETTY DRY

Having to shoot his new series, *Billable Hours*, in a dry office tower is taking a toll on Toronto actor **FABRIZIO FILIPPO**'s senses. "I've started washing out my sinuses," he says. "I had to buy this crazy syringe thing."

The writer/star plays Sam, a bright young lawyer on the series—premiering on Showcase next spring. "It's the anti-law show," says Filippo, 31. "Television always presents law as being this really noble, exciting thing. The fact is that 98 per cent of law is paper work. Basically you have a bunch of really smart people who are bored out of their minds. So all they do is screw around all day."

5. HOW A BEAUTY BECOMES A BEAST

Making **SARAH CARTER** ugly is a tough task. But the directors of her upcoming film, *Skinwalkers*—in which she plays a werewolf—gave it a shot. "I didn't get to wear any facial hair," says Carter. "But I did get the eyes, teeth and the chance to drool on screen."

Meanwhile, in *DOA: Dead or Alive*—shot this past summer in China and also due out in 2006—Carter gets to kick butt. "I have a major sword scene," says the Toronto-born actor. "It's like the Uma Thurman *Kill Bill* extravaganza." But she'll get the biggest buzz from her role in *Pledge This!* starring Paris Hilton. Did Carter, a former high school debater, test Hilton's skills? "We didn't debate," says Carter. "We danced."

6. AN ARTIST SHOULD ALWAYS WEAR A TIE

Even at 92, **E.J. HUGHES** has a steady hand. "I still manage to get in about two hours of painting a day," says the Duncan, B.C.-based landscape artist, who wears a sport jacket and dress pants when at work. "Men look unfinished when their collars are open. Most of the time I wear a tie."

Although a throwback, Hughes is certainly in style. In a new book, *A Journey with E.J. Hughes*, author Jacques Barbeau tells how he amassed the largest collection of Hughes's art (79 pieces). "Most art in public galleries these days is non-objective," says Hughes. "Modern artists are serious but they shouldn't give up nature. Realists are still important."

7. READY FOR TAKEOFF WITH BABY BRANSON

Nineteen-year-old **MARTIN (BABY BRANSON) HALSTEAD** has set out to match the success of his idol and friend Sir Richard Branson—the head of Virgin. For starters, Halstead has launched Britain's newest airline—AlphaOne has one 18-seater and will begin twice-daily flights between Edinburgh and the Isle of Man next month. And, like his mentor, Halstead loves attention. It seems that Branson has taught him well.

8. SOON HE'LL BE ABLE TO DRIVE TO THE RINK HIMSELF

Oshawa Generals' rookie **JOHN TAVARES** is considered the next "Great One"—which is a lot of pressure for a 15 year-old who has already inspired a rule change that allows "exceptional" underage players to be drafted into the Ontario Hockey League. Turns out Tavares has made the transition with ease—he's second among league rookies in scoring. His teammates have helped keep his head in check. "I was in the middle of a radio interview recently," he says, "and one of the guys walked by and asked how my diarrhea was. It was a joke, of course."

9. IT CERTAINLY PAYS TO BE MARRIED TO THE PM

CHERIE BLAIR has come under fire lately because of her perks and privileges. Last week, even her husband, Prime Minister **Tony Blair**, admitted that his wife, a top British lawyer, has cashed in on her stay at 10 Downing. He refused to divulge numbers, but it's been reported that she's raked in some big money from speaking engagements (on one five-stop tour she made $220,000) and has kept all the royalties from her book, *The Goldfish Bowl*. Volume Two seems to be playing out in the press.

10. THE MOTHER TERESA OF THE FELINE SET

GINNY, a half-schnauzer, half-Siberian husky, once dove from a moving car to dig a bloodied cat from a box of broken glass. In fact, the 17-year old dog, who died in August, spent most of her life helping cats and was named Cat of the Year at the Westchester Cat Show in 1998—the only canine to receive the distinction. On Nov. 19, a eulogy attended by 300 cats was held at the annual show as a final honour. "Ginny was the saint of cats," says **PHILIP GONZALEZ**, 55, who adopted her in 1990. "She might have been a cat lady in a prior life." M

S: CP 6; LARA SHEETER 7; CP 8; CP 9; GETTY IMAGES



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PHOTO BY DAVIDA NEMEROFF (LEFT)

HOLY THREESOME!

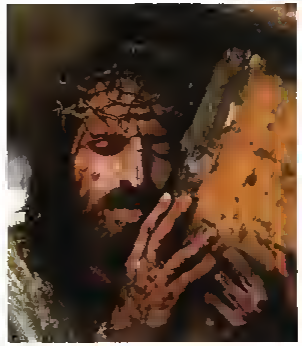
Christians C.S. Lewis, Anne Rice and Mel Gibson smoothly click into place as parts of a commercial holy trinity

BY BRIAN BETHUNE At first glance, it's hard to imagine an odder literary couple than C.S. Lewis and Anne Rice. Oxford don Lewis, best-known today for his classic children's fantasy, *The Chronicles of Narnia*, was the English-speaking world's most eminent Christian apologist before his death 42 years ago. Rice, an American writer of haute vampire tales and one of the great sex-and-blood authors of any era, is still going strong at 64, a year younger than Lewis when he died. But success makes its own strange bedfellows: add Mel Gibson to the mix—he of *The Passion of the Christ* and its US$611-million worldwide gross—and the ill-fitting pair of authors smoothly click into place as parts of a commercial Holy Trinity.

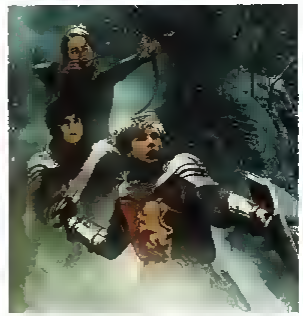
The seven books of Lewis's enduringly popular *Narnia* series, featuring English schoolchildren who repeatedly find themselves battling evil in a kind of alternative Camelot, have sold 95 million copies in half a century. Sales figures for Rice's novels exceed 100 million. And now Rice, too, is a Christian, having returned in 1998 to the Roman Catholic faith of her childhood, just as Lewis took up as an adult the ancestral Anglicanism he had abandoned as a youth. Rice's new novel, her 27th, is the first to reflect her conversion. *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt* is another probable bestseller. Even so, it won't match the pop culture impact already being generated by the film version of the first *Narnia* book, *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*, which opens on Dec. 9. Clearly, the age of the Christian blockbuster is upon us.

Not that Rice was so sure, at least while she was still writing *Out of Egypt*. She was genuinely worried that her complete change of fictional world might do "violence" to her career, she told *Maclean's* last week. But now that the book is out, Rice says the response has—so far—been reassuring. "I'd say my fans, the ones I've heard from, have mostly been very enthusiastic. Of course I've also heard from some disgruntled readers—they don't want me to even go there, please don't abandon the old characters, the old settings, and so on. But a lot of email from new readers too. I'd say the split is about 50-50."

Intriguingly, Rice has managed the unusual feat—one shared with C.S. Lewis—of reading the Gospels as literature *and* as the word of God. She admires the evangelists as wordsmiths, even visualizing a collaboration between two of them. "I can imagine Luke saying, 'I'm not going to put in that part about raising Lazarus from the dead. They're never going to believe *that*.' And John replying, 'Well, I saw it. So that's what I'm going to write.' That's my opinion as a novelist."



The vampire writer captivates with a novel about Jesus as a boy



BLOCKBUSTERS *Narnia* hopes for as much success as *The Passion* (top), Rice (left)

By erasing the gap between faith and reason, Rice was able to craft a novel that portrays a Christ in complete accordance with Catholic tradition, set against a meticulously realistic Jewish background. *Out of Egypt*, the first of a projected four-volume fictional biography, is a first-person account of a year in Jesus's life, from age 7 to 8. Jesus is the Christ of the Gospels—the only begotten Son of God—and Mary is his ever-virgin mother. (Plot details, such as the time an angry Jesus killed a bully and then raises him from the dead, come from the apocryphal gospels.) The effect, for readers who can accept Rice's basic premise, is striking. Seven-year-olds do not normally make compelling narrators, but Rice's Jesus does, as he struggles with his dawning awareness of unlimited power. And for those who miss the old Anne Rice, there is a brief but charged encounter with a Satan who has more than a whiff of the vampire about him.

There are other continuities with Rice's past work. "My earlier books also had a seeking after meaning and dealt with supernatural characters," she says, "even if Jesus is the ultimate challenge, the ultimate immortal. But if I can make a vampire come so alive that people phone me at home—I'm talking about grown adults—and ask me if he's real, then I can write this."

Whatever its eventual commercial success, *Out of Egypt* is hardly likely to bring upon Rice a fraction of the hostility that *Narnia* provokes in some circles. However much a hero Lewis is in robustly religious America, he is an object of derision for many in his native Britain, a much more militantly secular society, particularly among some of his fellow kidlit authors. The struggle is so vicious because the stakes are so high—one American commentator has described it as "nothing less than a battle for the soul of children's fantasy literature." Novelist and former Booker prize judge Philip Hensher, a man with a gift for invective, once wrote: "Don't give your children C.S. Lewis to read; give them anything else—*Last Exit to Brooklyn*, a bottle of vodka, a phial of prussic acid, even

books

Winnie the Pooh—but keep them away from *Narnia*."

And just what is Lewis guilty of? Why, of being an articulate voice from a vanished world that some moderns find dead wrong on just about everything—he's sexist, racist and Bible-thumping. Those are the sentiments of Philip Pullman, whose brilliant *His Dark Materials* trilogy, which features the death—no, the *killing* of God (although Pullman calls it "a natural release of an idea which has been kept alive long past its due date")—is the current gold standard in children's fantasy. From the trilogy's beginning in *The Golden Compass* (1996), Pullman has been warning his readers about the evils of organized religion. As one rebel angel says, "We have always tried to open minds; the Authority and his churches have always tried to keep them closed." For Pullman, one of the Authority's—that is God's—chief servants is Lewis, whom he will spontaneously denounce during interviews.

Lewis's bigoted, "nauseating drivel," says Pullman—sounding himself exactly like a prig-ish vicar—will lead children astray into racial profiling (*Narnia's* Evil Empire, populated by dark-skinned desert dwellers, is clearly modelled on the Muslim Middle East), into sexism (the girls become queens, but under the rule of their brother-kings), and, worst of all, into the religious worship of death that Pullman detects in the series. In the end, everyone in Narnia dies when its sun is extinguished, all the good people go to heaven, where they find themselves truly happy for the first time. Pullman hates the idea there could be anything better than earthly life. Even angels envy humans their bodies. "I want to remind people that our bodies are the source of all wonder, pleasure and experience."

It's all more than a bit much. The Calormenes, Narnia's Muslim stand-ins, are not evil by nature—the good among them are welcome in Lewis's heaven—and as for Christianity, Lewis can hardly be expected to keep his beliefs out of his writing, any more than Pullman can cut out his. As for the relative place of boys and girls, well, it was 50 years ago, and the queens do rule over every other creature in Narnia, including the talking animals—a kind of species-ism that has not, as yet, galvanized any detractors.

There's a joke in all this, and it's on Pullman. Lewis's books have not survived either because of or despite their deeper themes—but as *stories*. In post-Christian Britain, many, including Harry Potter creator J.K. Rowling, read them as children without realizing their religious subtext. Although Christians might wonder how anyone could miss the significance of the main character giving up his life for the sake of another, and then rising from the dead, such ignorance is commonplace now. (In the Potter novels absolutely no one has any religious faith, yet Christmas is still celebrated.) Christian children will always read *The Chronicles of Narnia* as Lewis meant them to, but without the bee Pullman has in his bonnet, others would probably enjoy them in exactly the same way Rowling did—as the enthralling stories they are. M

ON THE WEB For a review and information on The Chronicles of Narnia *video game, visit* www.macleans.ca/narnia





THROUGH THE WARDROBE A promo image for the film based on the world created by Lewis

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COMPILED BY BRIAN BETHUNE

Fiction

		LAST WEEK (WEEKS ON LIST)
1.	**THE TIME IN BETWEEN** by David Bergen	10 (2)
2.	**THE LIGHTHOUSE** by P.D. James	2 (3)
3.	**THE SEA** by John Banville	1 (2)
4.	**A BREATH OF SNOW AND ASHES** by Diana Gabaldon	3 (7)
5.	**THE DA VINCI CODE** by Dan Brown	4 (120)
6.	**MEMORIES OF MY MELANCHOLY WHORES** by Gabriel Garcia Marquez	(3)
7.	**KNIFE OF DREAMS** by Robert Jordan	8 (4)
8.	**A MAP OF GLASS** by Jane Urquhart	9 (11)
9.	**THE PENELOPIAD** by Margaret Atwood	5 (4)
10.	**ARTHUR & GEORGE** by Julian Barnes	6 (7)

Non-fiction

1.	**THE YEAR OF MAGICAL THINKING** by Joan Didion	1 (5)
2.	**THE BEDSIDE BOOK OF BIRDS** by Graeme Gibson	4 (2)
3.	**MAO: THE UNKNOWN STORY** by Jung Chang and Jon Halliday	5 (3)
4.	**TALK TO THE HAND** by Lynne Truss	(1)
5.	**FREAKONOMICS** by Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner	2 (21)
6.	**THEATRE OF THE MIND** by Jay Ingram	3 (2)
7.	**THE SECRET MULRONEY TAPES** by Peter C. Newman	8 (9)
8.	**A MAN WITHOUT A COUNTRY** by Kurt Vonnegut	6 (2)
9.	**QUICKSANDS** by Bedford Sybille	10 (6)
10.	**THE THIRD REICH IN POWER** by Richard J. Evans	(1)



FINALLY A BOOK ABOUT... DEMOLITION

Blowing things up real good is a subject of joy for many of us. Jeff Byles's *Rubble* (Random House) offers an entrancing history of planned destruction, from the Great Fire of London in 1666, when wreckers used barrels of gunpowder to blow up houses to halt the blaze, to the present. Among a remarkable cast of charecters is Cedric Price, the only British architect to also be a member of the National Institute of Demolition Contractors.

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ONE OF THE MORE ORIGINAL IDEAS: a Canadian secret service is portrayed as "the Kmart version of the CIA"

CSIS goes to Hollywood

A new American pilot, *Underfunded*, will feature a Canuck spy who outwits his CIA counterpart

BY SHANDA DEZIEL There's a new TV pilot being developed in Hollywood about the Canadian secret service and it's called . . . *Underfunded*. Sure, it's a great punchline—but can it actually work as a show? There is, of course, no secret service in Canada as it's defined in the U.S. While we have Mounties who work security detail for the PM and other dignitaries, this show will be about an organization such as CSIS. "It's the Kmart version of the CIA," says co-creator Ross Abrash. "But at the heart of the show, we have a Canadian character who's so bright and determined, he's able to outwit the more funded and respected agencies and win the day." Abrash (a writer for *The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson*) and David Breckman (a producer of *Monk*) sold the idea to the USA Network and will shoot the pilot in Vancouver in January—with the hope of premiering it in the summer.

It's common knowledge that U.S. audiences want characters they can relate to, i.e., Americans. So while *Underfunded*'s hero, Daryl Freehorn, will be an employee of the Canadian secret service, he will be set up in a Washington satellite office—and spend most of his time travelling internationally, working alongside spies from the CIA or Britain's MI5. (The writers acknowledge they are taking creative licence, since Canadian intelligence doesn't actually have an international presence.) "A guy that is going to be working on some of the same missions is a gentleman named Matt Sykes, who works for the CIA," says Breckman. "Sykes has unlimited funds and resources, which our guy doesn't. Daryl will have to use his ingenuity, but at the end of every mission Sykes will usurp the credit."

It seems a win-win situation for CSIS itself—a positive portrayal of individual agents, and an argument, come budget time, that it needs more funds to improve the organization's international reputation. "A U.S. show about Canadian spies?" asks CSIS spokeswoman Barbara Campion, who upon hearing the title laughs, "Oh God, okay—well, we could always use more money and more resources."

From the looks of it, *Underfunded* is one of the more original ideas out there. Most of the other recently announced pilots are adaptations and spinoffs. *The Sarah Connor Chronicles* is based on the Linda Hamilton character from *The Terminator* films. The series is supposed to take place between the second and third movies, and will focus on the mother-son relationship—less action, more drama and character study. Meanwhile, it's unlikely

Other pilots include David Cronenberg's spinoff of his creepy gynecologist-twins movie, *Dead Ringers*

that the TV version of *Blade* will stray far from the guns-and-gore formula that turned it into a three-picture hit. The relatively unknown cast is already set—and stepping into Wesley Snipes's long leather coat is Kirk Jones (also known as rapper Sticky Fingaz).

Television's most in-demand character these days is Aquaman—who surfaced in the summer on the HBO comedy *Entourage*. The show's movie star main character, Vincent Chase, grudgingly took on the unitard-wearing superhero role in a James Cameron-directed feature film. Then the DC comic character found his way to *Smallville* as a buddy for Clark Kent and love interest for Lois Lane. Now *Smallville*'s producers are giving the ocean protector his own show on the WB.

Over at HBO, recent series *Carnivale*, *Deadwood* and *Rome* haven't exactly brought out the same fervour in critics and audiences as *The Sopranos* and *Six Feet Under*. So for the upcoming year, the cable channel will rely on two twisted geniuses to deliver buzz-able new series. *Six Feet Under*'s Alan Ball has announced his next project with HBO will be based on the Southern Vampire novels of Charlaine Harris. Filled with black humour, they feature a telepathic young woman, Sookie Stackhouse, who falls for a vampire. The series will be set in the present, but in a world where vampires have come out of the coffin, so to speak—they openly walk among humans (albeit only at night), drink synthetic blood and discuss their "condition" on *Oprah*.

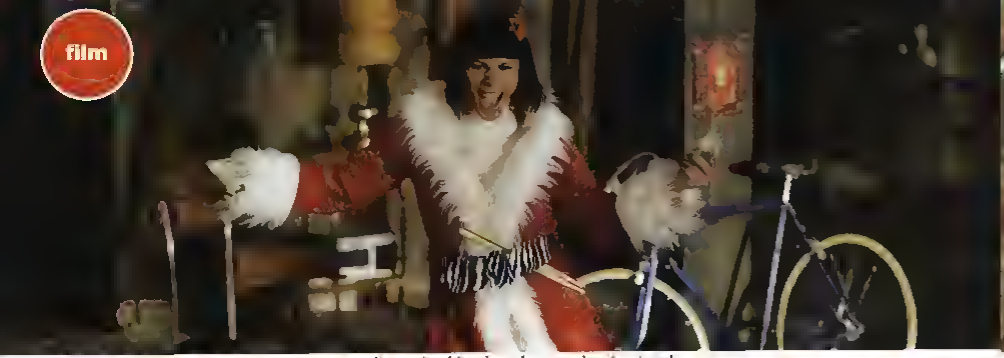
Upping the dark factor for HBO will be a David Cronenberg-directed series based on *Dead Ringers*, his 1988 movie about twin gynecologists starring Jeremy Irons. The popularity of *Nip/Tuck* proves audiences are into gross and invasive, but it's hard to imagine watching dramatized gynecological procedures every week. But how about getting Clive Owen to play the twin brothers? He's got the creepy/sexy thing down pat. And that would free up Irons to play a no-nonsense head of CSIS—should *Underfunded* come knocking. M



BUSH'S ASIA VISIT . . . ACCORDING TO TV

"President Bush is on his Asian tour now. He'll visit Japan, South Korea, China, Mongolia—once again he's skipping Vietnam." —*David Letterman*

"President Bush is travelling a lot these days. Last week, he was in Latin America, and later this week he's going to Asia. The trips are all part of Bush's new domestic plan, 'Don't blame me, I wasn't even there.'" —*Conan O'Brien*



THE REAL EXPERIENCES OF FRINGE ARTISTS: Heredia reprises his role as the cross-dressing Angel



BLEAK LITTLE COMEDY: despite the erotic intrigue conveyed by Cusack and Nielsen, this film noir feels grey

Putting the X back in Xmas

An uplifting musical and a smarty-pants crime movie put opposite spins on holiday cheer

BY BRIAN D. JOHNSON

'Twas the night before Christmas and all through the loft, not a creature was stirring except for the hot Hispanic transvestite street drummer in the Santa Claus dress who's dying of AIDS. Ah, it's enough to melt the heart of the most stubborn Scrooge. As America celebrates Thanksgiving, the juggernaut of the holiday movie season is now in full jingle-bell swing. With another long month left before Christmas—or, to paraphrase the hit song from *Rent*, another 44,640 minutes—the tinsel is starting to wear thin. But the Yule tide spirit is an unstoppable force. It wins either way. Resist it, and you feel like an immovable object. Cold, lonely and selfish. Join in the fun and you become a slave to buying stuff nobody needs while getting teary-eyed at the mall over elevator music versions of *The Little Drummer Boy*.

But this week, Hollywood inaugurates the season with a couple of movies that try to put the X back in Xmas. There's *Rent*, a feel-good adaptation of the hugely successful Broadway rock opera about a rainbow coalition of Manhattan bohemians making a joyful sound as they struggle with AIDS, angst, addiction and poverty. It features a scene on Christmas Eve in which a lesbian performance artist flashes her ass while her recently rejected boyfriend sings, "On this night when we celebrate the birth / In that little town of Bethlehem / We raise our glass—you bet your ass—to / La vie Boheme." For something decidedly darker, there's *The Ice Harvest*, a feel-bad film noir in which Billy Bob Thornton, as the larcenous owner of a strip bar, offers these words of holiday cheer: "Only morons are nice at Christmas."

Rent versus *The Ice Harvest*. Take your choice. Both feature strippers working derelict bars on Christmas Eve.

Now a pause for a declaration of personal bias. My allergy to Christmas—not the day, but the 44,640 minutes leading up to it—is matched only by my allergy to musicals, or at least the vast majority of them. I just don't get musicals. And when they are transposed from stage to screen, and shot in realistic settings, the notion of characters bursting into song to deliver lines of prosaic exposition set to unmemorable tunes seems ludicrous. There are, of course, notable exceptions. Some of the greatest films of all time have been musicals, including *Singin' in the Rain*, *My Fair Lady*, *West Side Story*, *Cabaret* and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. But they're all endowed with catchy tunes and a sharp wit. None could be described as earnest.

Rent is designed to uplift. The _Hair_ of its generation, it turns the clenched fist into a happy face.

Rent is earnest. It's an aerodynamic anthem to alternative culture that's designed to uplift. Set in the 1980s, and turbo-powered by ascending chords of soft rock, *Rent* turns the clenched fist into a happy face. It's the *Hair* of its generation. A decade after premiering on Broadway, this award-winning hit is still playing there. And now it comes to the screen, courtesy of Chris Columbus, one of Hollywood's most conventional directors—his oeuvre includes *Home Alone*, *Stepmom* and the first two *Harry Potter* movies.

For someone approaching *Rent* with pronounced allergies to (a) the season, (b) the genre, (c) the music and (d) the director, I had a fair bit of resistance to overcome. But that is what musicals—and Christmas—are in the business of doing: making believers of us all.

Rent has been credited with reviving the Broadway musical, which had become hooked on bloated stage effects. Written by Jonathan Larson—who died of an aortic aneurism on the eve of the play's first preview—it's based on experiences of the fringe artists who are the lifeblood of the New York theatre scene. And the movie imports six of its eight stars from the original Broadway cast, including Wilson Jermaine Heredia, who won a Tony Award for his stage performance as the cross-dressing Angel. Their talent is palpable onscreen.

One of the two newcomers is Rosario Dawson (*Sin City*), the cast's one Hollywood star. She plays Mimi, the drug-addicted stripper who spins seductive circles around her neighbour Roger (Adam Pascal), a stalled songwriter still brooding over his girlfriend's suicide. And Dawson looks fabulous even when her character is hovering on the brink of death.

The music runs the gamut. There are cloying love songs that rhyme "the mind churns" with "the heart yearns." AIDS, the solidarity disease, inspires some righteous lyrics about "dying in America / At the end of the millennium." But then there's the witty, self-referential *La Vie Boheme*—a kaleidoscopic ode "To leather, to dildos, to curry vindaloo / To huevos rancheros and Maya Angelou/Emotion, devotion, to causing a commotion/Creation, vacation / Mucho masturbation / Compassion, to fashion, to passion when it's new / To Sontag / To Sondheim / To anything taboo." What's paradoxical is that this mainstream celebration of taboo seems utterly wholesome.

The same could not be said of *The Ice Harvest*, a bleak little comedy directed by Harold Ramis (*Groundhog Day*, *Analyze This*). Billed as a "wickedly funny thriller about thick thieves and thin ice," it's generous with neither laughs nor thrills. Instead, it's a thin tale of knuckleheaded crooks, made in the style of the Coen brothers' *Blood Simple* or *Fargo*, but without the finesse. It does, however, have a certain dead pan charm, and skewers the spirit of the season with a ruthless lack of sentiment.

Set in Wichita on a Christmas Eve of freezing rain, *The Ice Harvest* stars John Cusack as Charlie, a world-weary mob lawyer. He derives no joy from Christmas, which he dismisses as "God's birthday," or from the fact that he's just embezzled $2 million from a Kansas City crime boss (Randy Quaid). A tough, sardonic Thornton plays Vic, Charlie's partner in crime. (First *Bad Santa*, now this—Billy Bob seems have to a grudge against Christmas.) And of course, there's a girl, a femme fatale named Renata (Connie Nielsen), who runs the Sweet Cage strip club.

This dark comedy of errors unfolds as a game of mutually assured destruction. The screenwriters, Oscar-winning veteran Robert Benton (*Kramer vs. Kramer*, *Nobody's Fool*) and Pulitzer-Prize-winning novelist Richard Russo (*Empire Falls*), make a fetish of flatness. Armed with spare dialogue, and playing characters who seem all too familiar to them, Cusack and Thornton neutralize each other as straightmen. That leaves the field open for the cast's wild card, Oliver Platt (*Kinsey*, *The West Wing*), to steal the movie. As Charlie's buddy Pete, who goes on a hysterical bender, Platt has some priceless moments, notably when he bursts in on a Christmas dinner dead drunk and rips a leg off the turkey.

These days it's rare to complain about a movie being too short. But clocking in at a bulimic 88 minutes, *The Ice Harvest* seems to end too soon. It's as if, determined to subvert the holiday spirit, the movie is afflicted by a smug, bah-humbug lack of generosity.

Christmas is a time for emotional storms, as hot fronts of commerce and sentiment collide with cold fronts of loneliness and despair.

The Ice Harvest's bleak comedy skewers the season's spirit with a ruthless lack of sentiment

There are a lot of people with nowhere to go on Christmas Day but the multiplex. Under normal circumstances, this critic would choose a smarty-pants film noir over an uplifting musical any day. But sometimes it's better to err on the side of sweetness and light. M



WE'RE STALKING... DANIEL CRAIG

Filming wraps this week on *The Visiting* in Washington, where no one's paid attention to its British star (all eyes have been on Nicole Kidman). His next leading lady (in *Casino Royale*) will likely be Angelina Jolie—he worked with her on *Tomb Raider*. For now, he can be seen in a black turtleneck in the trailer for *Munich* (Dec. 23). Roger Moore has declared Craig a "good actor." And Katie Couric learned his favourite ice cream flavours: vanilla, then pistachio.

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BEDCOVER HOGS get off lightly in a book written by the great-grandson of Emily Post. Laundry, though, is a sensitive issue.

Stop ruining my life. Please.

A new guide tackles the 'Etiquette Imperatives' of modern couples

BY JULIA McBINNELL Never mind that your husband snores—he steals the bedcovers. This is a test, women. Do you (a) knee him in the back, (b) tell friends this is symptomatic of his other, bigger problems, or (c) purchase larger size covers and sheets for your bed? Peter Post's *Essential Manners for Couples* is the latest in a wave of etiquette tutoring that pushes beyond the standard table manners taught in charm schools of the 1950s or, for that matter, by the author's great-grandmother, Emily Post. While the book recaps a number of Ms. Post's patent rules of etiquette—"pass the salt and pepper together"—Mr. Post's ideas reach into intimate new territory that more or less picks up on couples coaching where Will Smith in *Hitch* left off.

The idea came to Post one day when he was browsing the self-help section of his local bookstore. "Virtually all of the advice books focused on how to recover after having screwed up your life—especially your life with your significant other," Post thought. "If all of these people buying these books had tried using etiquette to help solve their relationship problems, then maybe their relationships wouldn't need saving." The book tackles two major areas: a couple's private life and their public life. (Data was collected through an online survey of 600 couples over a two-month period in 2004.)

Post stresses that couples etiquette isn't about being "excessively or insincerely polite with each other." On the other hand, he writes, saying "I love you" is a key element in successful relationships, and offers the advice that you can "spice up a compliment by including an 'I love you' with it." You might try, "Coffee in bed? I love you," he suggests.

While some of his points on how to argue (stay calm and don't stray into past battles) or the importance of saying "sorry" seem rather obvious, Post departs from the norm on a few surprising points. For instance, on financial matters, he advises couples to keep separate bank accounts, despite the fact that the majority of the survey's married respondents answered that they share joint accounts.

Or observe the inclusion of this arguably controversial new code of behaviour for couples dining out together, while bearing in mind, perhaps, the author's own 32-year-long marriage. In a section titled "The Basic Manners of Eating," Post gives the okay to "glance at the handsome gentleman or knockout woman at the next table." Good news for many, but one wonders what Emily would think of this, and whether her great-grandson isn't making up the odd rule as he goes. To be fair, Post adds that it is not okay to "stare" at the "knockout woman," etc., but when and how a public inspection of the opposite sex made it into permissible etiquette is unfortunately not elaborated on in this pont-form summary. Likewise, in addressing the bedcover hogging issue, a bold, unequivocal sidebar instructs "Etiquette Imperative: Let 'Em Sleep. When one partner is trying to sleep and the other is awake, the needs of the sleeping partner take precedence." Correct answer re: cover-stealing above is (c) of course.

On financial matters, the surprising advice is that couples should maintain separate bank accounts

In another section, "Appreciating Each Other's Contribution," Post confesses that he rarely cooks or does laundry. "I, in turn, have the utmost appreciation for how much my wife does to keep our household functioning." (Note to Mrs. Post: The world's first finishing school for gentlemen opened its doors this fall in Scotland, offering such courses as "Basic Sewing and Ironing" to its all-male student body, as well as "How to Behave in Any Situation.")

Other Post "Etiquette Imperatives" include "Keeping Your Dirty Laundry Private" and "Not Interrupting." If you are an interrupter, Post urges that you immediately acknowledge your faux pas: "I'm sorry, dear—I interrupted you. What were you about to say?"

Researchers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology may be able to help with this. They've created a device to help inveterate interrupters self-correct obnoxious behaviour. The Jerk-O-Meter measures phone rudeness by analyzing how quickly someone speaks and how often they interrupt. The device sends messages to its owner mid-conversation, displaying such notes as "Don't be a jerk!," "Be a little nicer now," or "Wow, you're a smooth talker."

As for apologizing for interrupting, Post says, "Do it sincerely and you're off the hook, do it insincerely and you might as well not apologize at all." M



MOST IMPROVED **KATE WINSLET**

The star of *Finding Neverland* and *Titanic* is rumoured to have stopped living large: she's dropped three dress sizes, reportedly in a bid to avoid losing movie roles to slimmer starlets. Another reason for Winslet's reduced circumstances may be her marriage to director Sam Mendes, who has previously dated skinny stars Calista Flockhart and Rachel Weisz. Despite a previous vow to remain curvy, she's removed all wheat and dairy products from her diet.



FOODIES SAY FOIE GRAS is to die for, but it's the birds that do the dying, after their livers have been bloated just this side of lethal cirrhosis

Duck if you're still eating foie gras

The campaign to ban it is heating up. But James Bond is having trouble getting the message out.

BY BENOIT AUBIN It's enough to make you feel sorry for the French bourgeois Peugeots burning in the suburbs, London snatching the Olympics, and now this: foie gras—the *crème de la crème* of French gourmandise—is under attack by a threat more lethal than Avian flu. Anglo-Saxon animal-rights activists want the delicacy banned worldwide. These crusaders probably couldn't tell demi-glace from gravy if their lives depended on it, but the French are taking them seriously. Paris recently passed a bill declaring foie gras part of France's national heritage, saying, in effect, you mess with the pâté, you mess with la République. But too late. America is in the throes of a new witch hunt: swank restaurants serving the "immoral" delicacy.

Foie gras—not to be confused with pedestrian chicken liver pâté, is the sweet and creamy flesh of the livers of specially bred and overfed ducks or geese. It melts on your tongue faster than chocolate and lingers in your throat longer than the guilt of eating such blatantly rich, fat food. Snobs love it for the same reason they love caviar or champagne—it is ridiculously expensive. Raw, uncooked foie gras will set you back $150 a kilogram if your butcher likes you, much more if you live in a rich place. Foodies say a thin slice of foie gras seared in a flash and spread on dry toast is to die for.

But it's the ducks that do the dying. In the two weeks prior to their date at the slaughterhouse, the birds are force-fed high-energy feed is rammed down their throats through a funnel, until their livers are bloated, just this side of lethal cirrhosis—at which time the organ is deemed perfect for foie gras. "The art of *gavage* [force-feeding] is a noble and ancient tradition," duck breeders say. That doesn't cut much ice with their foes, whose slogan is "Foie gras is a disease, not a delicacy."

Force-feeding is what prompted Sir Roger Moore, 78, of James Bond fame, to stage a comeback. Moore has lent his voice to a documentary showing ducks who appear to suffer and bleed in rat-infested cages. Conclusion: "Foie gras is a horribly cruel product." On this side of the Atlantic, California was the first to heed the call, putting foie gras on the list of illegal substances last year. Now, the battle is raging in Chicago, where a proposal to ban the sale of foie gras is before city council. The situation there has turned ugly. After recriminations by leading chefs that city hall has no business in the plates of the nation's restaurants, one establishment serving foie gras was spray-painted and had a window smashed. Now, the protest has spread to Canada. Activists recently published a list of 13 Toronto restaurants that offer the "bad" dish, suggesting customers boycott the establishments until they stop serving it.

Marc Thuet, a high-profile chef in Toronto, says he suspects a political, anti-French agenda is behind the campaign because "Americans have no lesson to teach anyone on food—just look at how they raise cattle, with hormones and stuff. I never serve American meat in my restaurant." The problem with Thuet's theory is that, in the United States, imported foie gras is as Canadian as maple syrup. The U.S. imported $2.9 million worth of foie gras in 2004, and $2.5 million of it came from Canada—all from Quebec. "We have all but stolen the American foie gras business from France," says Jean-Marie Labrecque, an expert with the Quebec ministry of agriculture.

Local producers are concerned by the boycott, of course. "The problem is the campaign is so fanatical," says Isabelle François of Aux Champs d'Élise (85,000 ducks) in Marieville, Que. "We raise animals for food, so if you are a radical vegetarian, there is nothing I can tell you to win you over." François insists the birds are treated with care. "It's not the horror story you see in the documentary." But do the ducks suffer or not? "Does a fat human suffer from obesity? Not directly, I think. Having a paunch is not hurtful in itself," says Dr. Martine Bouliane, who teaches veterinary medicine at the Université de Montreal in Ste-Hyacinthe, Que.

> **'Americans have no lesson to teach anyone on food. Look at how they raise cattle, with hormones and stuff.'**

"When the feeder comes in, the ducks run toward him, not away. They seem to like it."

Serving customers at her butcher shop in Montreal's Atwater Market, Brigitte Saint-Vincent says she doubts the campaign will take hold. "Foie gras is just too good. Once you've tasted it, you come back for more." Not just in Montreal, it seems. Look who has "seared foie gras with artichoke rösti and glazed apples" on its menu: Le Club at Hush, an expensive London eatery co-owned by one Geoffrey Moore, Sir Roger's own son. M



TODAY'S SPECIAL... PRISON HOT SAUCE

Jailhouse Fire, a new hot sauce produced by inmates at the Hillsborough County jail in Brandon, Fla., was conceived as an antidote to bland prison fare. Members of the inmate horticultural program spent two years perfecting the recipe, a blend of jalapeno, Scotch bonnet and habanero peppers harvested on prison grounds. The sauce will be available online in 2006. For now, at US$3.25 a bottle, it remains a popular choice at the prison canteen.



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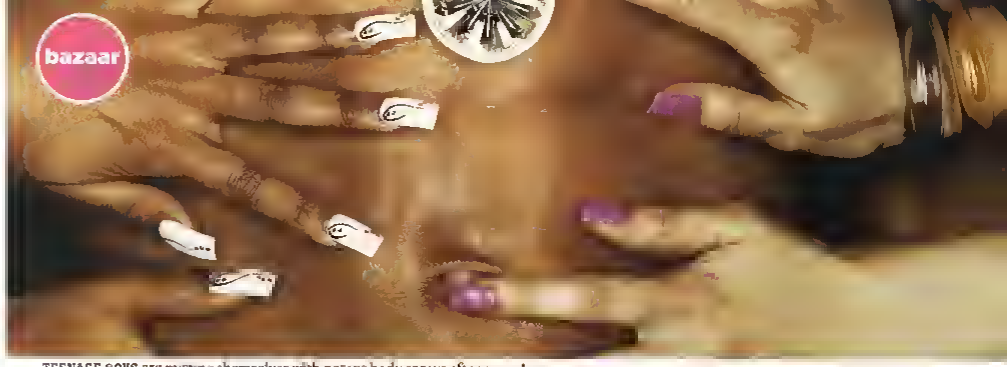

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James Houston Celebrating a Life

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TEENAGE BOYS are misting themselves with potent body sprays after gym class

Smells like teen libido

Cheap men's body sprays are selling like crazy. Does the AXE Effect actually work?

BY JOHN INTINI Kate, a 28-year old marketing manager, says she regularly falls victim to the AXE Effect. "It gets me whenever I do the laundry," says the Burlington, Ont., resident, who requested anonymity for fear of being mocked by family and friends. "I smell it on my husband's clothes, and he's just say it doesn't put me in the mood for doing laundry."

While Kate is willing to admit she's turned on by cheap men's body sprays—a product category that includes AXE, TAG and Red Zone—she's a bit of an exception among adult women. There are certainly far fewer out there than suggested by the over-the-top ads, which often star a dork who douses himself and instantly becomes irresistible to gorgeous models. "If there was really sexual magnetism in a bottle, it wouldn't cost $3.99," laughs Robin Milhausen, the co-host of the Life Network's *Sex, Toys & Chocolate*, who is currently conducting post-doctoral research on sexual arousal at the University of Windsor. "Actually, body spray can interfere with your ability to attract a woman. Pheromones are the body's natural way of drawing others to us." Also, unlike many mammals, humans respond best to visuals. "Smell is generally a repellent, and seldom the force that brings people together," says Guy Grenier, a clinical psychologist in London, Ont. "Body sprays play to men's fantasies and insecurities."

And yet, sales numbers indicate that men are buying into it. Since Unilever introduced AXE in 2002, big name deodorant brands—including Old Spice and Gillette—have followed by flooding the market with numerous body spray scents—and all of them seem to be competing for the most ridiculous name (TAG's First Move and AXE's Tsunami are two contenders). In the last three years, men's deodorant and antiperspirant sales in Canada have climbed by 13 per cent and the introduction of body sprays has played a key role in that spike. "Men are becoming more odour conscious," says Alan Hirsch, the neurological director of the Smell & Taste Treatment and Research Foundation in Chicago. "It has always been a struggle to get men to wear cologne because they don't consider it macho. But body sprays are just an extension of regular underarm deodorant sprays."

Much of this rise can be attributed to the growing popularity of sprays among teenage boys. To many teenagers body sprays act as starter colognes—without the hefty price. In fact, the 17-to-24 age group is the central focus

> **'The idea that there's a smell or taste that will universally turn people on is the Holy Grail of marketing'**

of body spray marketers, who say that even kids as young as 11 are using sprays regularly. (One can only hope that the overt sexual references in the ads isn't what has been driving pre-teens to drench themselves in these ultra potent mists.)

Of course, for the older generation of users, sex sells. And though there are no money-back guarantees if wearing a spray doesn't keep you from going home alone after a night at the bar, plenty of guys are willing to give it a shot in the off chance there's some degree of truth to the ads. "I've never had a woman turn away from me in disgust when I wear AXE," says Jim Taylor, a 31-year old Toronto-based TV writer. "But I've never had anyone rip my clothes off because I had it on, either."

It could be that the scent isn't just right. Several years ago, a study conducted at the Smell & Taste foundation identified several scents that turned women on—and off. Cherries, barbecued meat and, surprisingly, men's cologne (they tested about 30 brands) had the most negative effect on vaginal blood flow. But the combinations of licorice/cucumber and licorice/banana nut bread proved to be the most effective at increasing a women's sex drive. In another study, from earlier this year, women were most aroused sexually when they came into contact with pheromones released by other women who were breast feeding. "So maybe men should dump the cologne and body sprays," says Milhausen, "and find a lactating woman to spray milk on him."

For now, anyway, a magic sex potion—be it cologne, lotion, drink or body spray—remains elusive. "Nobody has discovered an aphrodisiac, but as soon as someone does you should sell everything—including your grandmother—and invest in it because it will be 10 times bigger than Viagra," says Grenier, who teaches a sexuality course at the University of Western Ontario. "The idea that there is a smell or taste that will universally turn people on is the Holy Grail." M


WHAT THEY GOT FOR IT . . LUDACRIS
Last week, enterprising fans of hip-hop impresario Ludacris—whose portfolio of platinum-selling albums includes *Word of Mouf* and *Chicken N Beer*—were offered the chance to listen to the rapper speak about how to succeed in the music industry at the Learning Annex in New York for US$59.99. Topics covered included how Ludacris got to where he is, why he never gave up, and what he does in his spare time.

GETTY IMAGES

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It's a hard job, being sexy



SCOTT FESCHUK

Strategy Memo

To: Matthew McConaughey, Sexiest Man Alive

Your Sexcellency,

Congratulations on being named to your prestigious post last week by *People* magazine! As a veteran of several Sexiest Man Alive administrations (not the Nick Nolte one—I had *nothing* to do with that debacle), I offer you the following advice in a spirit of camaraderie, unity and sexiness.

Job No. 1: Your first order of business is selecting a Vice Sexiest Man Alive—the beautiful, beautiful man who'll be just a disfiguring scar or bad haircut away from the top job. You want someone who's on the right side of the issues—pro-shirtlessness, anti-unibrow—but someone whose sexiness is not quite as high octane, universally admired and potentially fatal to heterosexual women as your own. It's all about balance. And sexiness.

Domestic Concerns. You assume your duties at a difficult time. The esteemed office of Sexiest Man Alive was denigrated by its most recent occupant, Jude Law—who exploited its influence to star in and force upon the American people approximately 437 movies, all of which sucked. Then he went and slept with the nanny.

The people need to hear a message of hope. They need to see you making a connection with the masses and rebuilding the noble institution of Sexiest Man Alive. Seductively unbuttoning your trousers while hollering "Gotta let it breathe!" oughta do the trick.

Never Forget. The key to any political strategy is to manage expectations. Hence, it is best to surround yourself early in your tenure with really ugly and/or overweight people. This will make you seem even sexier by comparison.

Inaugural Speech. Do what feels right for you. Harrison Ford chose a sombre, snow-flecked day in rural Wyoming to give his memorable "Check out these glutes" address. Ben Affleck delivered his to twin blonds in the backseat of a Hummer.

The Media. They're going to be hounding you to reveal your plan to deal with America's rising sexiness deficit. Recently, the United States has fallen behind several Asian nations and, on the strength of Shania Twain videos alone, Canada.

In 2004 (the most recent figures available from the Organization of Sexually Attractive States), the United States dropped to 17th in the world in Gross Domestic Sexiness per capita, making this our least sexy period since 1986's catastrophic leg warmers fad. On the positive side, the number-crunchers tell me we'll shoot right back up to 12th if we can just get rid of that fat guy on *Lost*.

Don't fall into the media's trap. If you get stuck for something to say, just use these foolproof talking points:

- These leather pants are so snug and constricting—I think I'll take them off.
- I'm sorry, I couldn't hear your question over the sound of my buttocks flexing.
- I'd love to talk, but I'm late to teach underprivileged children how to count to six using my abs.
- Could you please ask that question more sexily?

Re-election campaign. The only man to twice be chosen Sexiest Man Alive is Brad Pitt, and even he had five long, unsexy years in between tenures. But don't resign yourself to being a one-termer. Get to work now: build coalitions, lower taxes (it never hurts), obsessively wax your chest. Ultimately, though,

People need a message of hope. Sexily unbuttoning your pants while hollering 'Gotta let it breathe,' ought to do it.

success will rely on making other men feel sexy. And to achieve that, you need to move quickly to pass into law a progressive two-part agenda, including:

1. A moustache amnesty—turn in your old, unsexy facial hair and get $100.
2. A bold national investment in sexiness, highlighted by a plan to get all men red cars and jean jackets with studs that spell names like "Bullet" and "Handfulla."

Legacy. You have a year to advance your sexiness manifesto, but in many ways your legacy will be forged in these crucial first days. Will you be a caretaker SMA like Pierce Brosnan? Or will you risk failure by aiming high? (To this day, America remains stung by the lost promise of the Swayze administration—so much hair, so little to show for it.) What's clear is that you now have a mandate to be sexy. Rally Americans to your vision. Tell them: "America was built on sexiness. It led the world in sexiness. And it will lead the world again!" Then rub oil all over your torso. M

Scott Feschuk was chief of staff to Sexiest Man Alive (1987), Harry Hamlin, and served in the administrations of Mark Harmon, Denzel Washington and, briefly, that of Ben Affleck, until he was fired in a dispute over sideburn length.

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Erin Davis & Mike Cooper in the morning.

98.1 CHFI Toronto's Late Favourites



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King Kong arms and Drunken Figs in our random compendium of things that make life worth living

AND NOW IN HIGH-TOPS *Adbusters'* first low-cut unbranded shoe, the Blackspot, was a hit. But the new Blackspot Unswooshers is better and higher. Just don't buy a pair on Nov. 25—after all, that's *Adbusters'* 14th annual Buy Nothing Day.

SHINING LIKE A DIAMOND Neil Diamond's new album, *12 Songs*, just might rescue him from the old folks' casino circuit. His infectious melodies now come with a stripped-down sound, and age has added more gravel to Diamond's vocals. Just cheesy enough to be beautiful.



LISTEN, DO YOU WANT TO KNOW A SECRET? *John Lennon. All I Want Is the Truth* is a photographic biography for a younger audience. Elizabeth Partridge follows Lennon from his first home in Mendips, England, to his last, the Dakota in New York City—with all the drinking, girl-chasing and peacemaking in between.



CANUCK NOIR *The City Man*, a novel by Howard Akler, reads like a cross between Michael Ondaatje and Raymond Chandler—and is set in Toronto in the dirty thirties, where pickpockets, hacks, suckers and grifters vie for a slice of the hard-boiled pie.



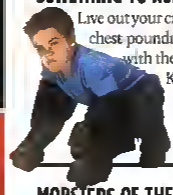
JUICED UP

The new video for the Strokes' single *Juicebox* is filled with porn and vomit. But anything with a cameo by comedian David Cross (*Arrested Development*) is essential viewing. Here he plays a radio DJ, who has little interest in NYC's foremost nouveau-garage rockers.

NEW SCHOOL MEETS OLD Xbox 360 is great for new games—in NBA 2K6, you can see sweat glisten on Shaq's head—and for old arcade faves, like Dig Dug.



SOMETHING TO ROAR ABOUT Live out your crushing and chest-pounding fantasies with the Electronic Kong Arms—the year's best movie tie-in toy.



MORE FUN WITH FIGS Filled with port and organic chocolate and then dipped in more chocolate, Drunken Figs are seriously decadent (*www.cocoavino.com*). Plus, figs are an excellent source of potassium.

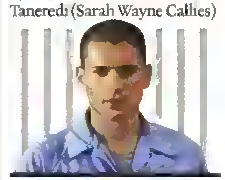
DEATH BY CAFFEINE How many cups or cans of your favourite caffeinated drink can you chug before keeling over—is it 102 Red Bulls, 234 Starbucks' lattes or maybe 1,092 bottles of Snapple Ginseng Tea? Find out at *wwwen ergyfiend com/death-by-caffeine*

GEE WHIZ, WALLY, IT'S A DVD The first season of *Leave It to Beaver* is finally available—and the three discs (39 episodes) come in a nifty metal lunchbox.



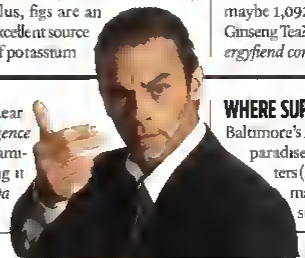
BROIT-EN UP THE HOLIDAYS Lillian's Mandel Broit is a delicious twice-baked Jewish biscotti that hasn't been available since the '80s. Now Lillian's daughter is doing the baking and it's back on the shelves at Holt Renfrew.

LOVE THAT DARES NOT SPEAK ITS NAME Besides being the most suspenseful hour of prime-time viewing, *Prison Break* has set up television's most complicated romance, between inmate Michael Scofield (Wentworth Miller) and the jail's play-by-the-rules female doctor Sara Tancredi (Sarah Wayne Callies).



GO OUT KICKING Kramer Funerals in Germany is offering soccer fans a fitting resting place—coffins painted in your favourite team's colours. And for those who'd prefer to be cremated, your ashes can be stored in a soccer-ball-shaped urn.

MOBSTERS OF THE WEEK Jimmy Rear don is one scary dude in CBC's *Intelligence* (Nov. 28) about an organized crime family and the CSIS guys who try to bring it down—created by Chris Haddock (*Da Vinci's Inquest*).



WHERE SUPERHEROES MEET CULT DIRECTORS Baltimore's Atomic Books is a comic-book lovers' paradise, and happens to be where John Waters (*Hairspray*) picks up his fan mail. Can't make it to Maryland? Look for reading suggestions at *www.atomicbooks.com*.



CHARLES (CHARLIE) SHEPPARD

1962-2005

'Not a lot of people live on the edge that long'

Charles Sheppard was born on July 11, 1962, in the small western Ontario town of Galt, and raised in nearby Preston. He was the only son of Carol Ann Laurence and Charles Havelock Sheppard.

His mother worked jobs at the local post office and hair salon to support him and his two sisters, Cheryl and Cynthia, after their father left the family.

As a boy, Charlie was a freckled, pale redhead, a scrawnier version of the man, but just as resourceful. When the batteries ran out on his walkie-talkie, he tried rewiring it with a lamp cord. "Of course he got electrocuted," says his brother-in-law Jamie from Elliot Lake, Ont., "but he always liked to go that extra mile."



He enjoyed stuffing pillows and blankets inside barrels so he and his sisters could climb in and roll down hills in their backyard. Bath time was an opportunity to don goggles and flippers and leap into the tub yelling "Bonzai!" It seemed natural, says his older sister Cynthia, of Tillsonburg, Ont., that he would join the army.

He signed up in 1983, a few years after his marriage to Karen, with whom he had two daughters, Holly and April, now 20 and 18, respectively. (The marriage would end in 2002.) He did a stint in the Canadian Airborne Regiment in the mid-1980s, and rose quickly through the ranks, becoming a sergeant in 1991, and then a warrant officer in 1996. Charlie also earned the titles of pathfinder and ranger, before serving with the army in Bosnia in 1997, as part of the NATO Stabilization Force. Most recently he was a member of Edmonton's 3rd Battalion of the Princess Patricia's Canadian Light Infantry. He was slated to leave for Afghanistan in 2006.

His appetite for danger extended to his hobbies. He rode a motorcycle, and enjoyed hiking in the backcountry. On one occasion, he had to be revived after plunging through the ice and being swept downriver while trudging across Kananaskis country, in the Alberta Rockies. The next year, he was caught in an avalanche, and had to be dug out of the snow. "He was like a cat with nine lives," says his niece, Jessica Dickens.

Charlie's main passion and source of excitement was parachuting, and his army life revolved around it. He took courses to become a jumpmaster, rappelmaster, parachute instructor, and military free fall jumpmaster. With more than 5,000 jumps to his name, he was renowned as the paratrooper who could teach proper technique to junior ranks. "He has trained so many young soldiers, shown so many the Standard, and touched so many military lives," wrote one colleague recently on an army website. "Every soldier he trained will train others... The work we accomplish in the name of Canada will be due in no small part to his instruction."

Even when off duty, he went parachuting, and wanted to teach others. He trained civilians on the weekends, and went out for fun by himself. "This was work he was doing every day," says Jamie. About 15 years ago, Charlie coaxed his sisters and several others to go parachuting with him in Fergus, Ont., remembers Cynthia, while their mother "sat by the phone," fearful she would be left alone to take care of all the grandchildren.

In the past year, Charlie had taken over a bungee-jumping business in the West Edmonton Mall called Centre of Gravity. His daughters both lived with him in Edmonton, and accompanied him on camping trips and mountain-climbing treks. At Christmas, and on birthdays, he was known to wrap presents with duct tape, the common military style.

He was often on the move, flying from base to base to train soldiers across Canada and the U.S. Many of those stationed in the Middle East, and those who served during previous conflicts, were his students. Charlie most recently had been dispatched to instruct a military free fall course at the Canadian Parachute Centre in Trenton, Ont., where paratroopers dot the skyline as commonly as evening stars.

"He got an awful lot done in 20 years," says Cynthia. "Not a lot of people live on the edge that long."

On Oct. 3, he boarded a leased civilian CASA 212 aircraft for the first training jump of the day. There were blue skies and light winds, perfect weather. Charlie pushed himself off the rear ramp and embraced the free fall. When it was time to release his parachute, it failed to fully open. The reserve chute launched, but became entangled in the nylon fabric and lines of the first chute.

Warrant Officer Charles Sheppard died upon landing amid the rural landscape of the Mountain View detachment at CFB Trenton.

BY CATHY GULLI

ILLUSTRATION BY TED MCGRATH

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